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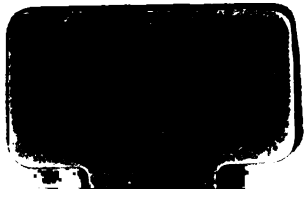

CALIFORNIA:

ITS GOLD AND ITS INHABITANTS.

BY THE AUTHOR

OF "SEVEN YEARS ON THE SLAVE COAST OF AFRICA,"
"PEREGRINE SCRAMBLE," &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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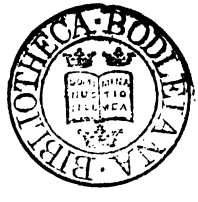
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CALIFORNIA;

ITS GOLD AND ITS INHABITANTS.

CHAPTER I.

AMERICAN JUSTICE.

THE following account of an execution for theft, appeared in the "Union" to-day.

"The 'Union' learns from a correspondent at Diamond Springs, in El Dorado county, that a man named William Hib-

bard was shot at Pleasant Valley, for horse stealing, on the eighteenth instant.

About two weeks since, a horse and mule were stolen from Dr. Slaughter's, and the mule having a broken hoof, they were enabled to track the thief to Sly Park Creek.

The party followed the track in Carson Valley, where they found the horse in a corral belonging to Mr. Redding, and the man who brought him there in the house.

The party arrested him, and brought him before Dr. Slaughter, who is a magistrate, found him guilty, and sentenced him to be hung.

The choice was granted to him of being hung or shot; and he chose the latter.

He made a confession, acknowledging his guilt, and implicating others.

At the appointed hour for execution he was led out, took a drink, informed the crowd that he was of good family, and that this was his first offence.

He refused to have his eyes bandaged, and directed the six executioners to stand close and make sure work of it.

At the word he received three balls into his breast, and died instantly.

A physician claimed the head, as he had made a bargain with the man for it before he was shot, and quietly pulling out a bowie-knife, whacked off the head, and placing it in a sack, marched off with it.

A shallow grave was then dug, and the headless trunk tumbled into it.

The unfortunate man was from Illinois, where he leaves a wife and child."

How prominently conspicuous is the

civilization of the United States, both in the execution and its details, combined with the Editor's style of description!! It is absurd to say that a people possessed of natural good principle and feeling could, by having transferred themselves to another country, instantly become so lost to all humanity and decency. The very Editor appears to enjoy the brutal conduct of the Doctor, very appropriately named "Slaughter."

More of the same revolting system is stated to have taken place at "Cache Creek," without one syllable of disapproval. I annex the extracts which appeared in the paper on the same day.

"*Lynching at Cache Creek.*—A man by the name of Dunn was arrested on Thursday last, on Cache Creek, on suspicion of

stealing twenty-five thousand dollars from Diggs and Anderson.

He was hung three times, in the attempt to extort a confession, the third time nearly proving fatal.

No discovery was made, and he was discharged."

"*Affray at Cache Creek.*—The peaceful settlement of Cache Creek was somewhat aroused, on Wednesday last, by a difficulty which nearly proved fatal to one of the parties.

A man by the name of Adams, and another by the name of Tuttle, had a difficulty about a settler's claim. Adams obtained judgment against the latter, who, however, persisted in remaining on the claim.

Adams then moved Tuttle's tent, when Tuttle moved back again.

Upon a second attempt on the part of Adams to put him off, Tuttle drew a pistol and fired at Adams, who immediately drew in his turn, and fired at Tuttle, who had fled behind Mr. Rosebeger, the ball passing through the flesh of Mr. Rosebeger's arm, and entering Tuttle's body. The latter still lives, although the wound is considered mortal."

As a set-off to the foregoing, the following notices are inserted; a step indisputably in the right path, both at San Francisco and at Marysville.

"The common council of Marysville have passed an ordinance closing stores on the Sabbath, and prohibiting theatrical entertainments or bull-fights."

"*Dance Houses, &c.*—Messrs. De Witt and Harrison and other leading firms of

our city, have petitioned the Common Council to pass an ordinance providing that dance houses, theatres, billiard saloons, and bowling alleys, shall be closed on Sundays."

Going to San Francisco from Sacramento this day, a number of American and Mexican *Ladies* (as women of any calling are termed by the Americans) were on board; the attention paid to these persons equalled any that I have seen offered to those whose moral lives demand and merit on all occasions. At the supper table they were placed to the right and left of the Captain of the steamer, who sat at the head of the table. It is

to the American here, of no consequence what amount of virtue or vice is enveloped in the female attire; the respect shown to each is the same, and as shamelessly.

CHAPTER II.

TO PLACERVILLE.

RETURNING from San Francisco, at Sacramento I took the stage to Placerville, a journey of about seventy miles.

Of all public conveyances I ever encountered, the stages here take the lead, in discomfort and vulgarity. The carriage is either a lumbering, old-fashioned thing, constantly reminding one of that in which Sir Walter Scott places Lady Margaret Bellenden, or otherwise it is

a waggon on springs; as many persons as can jam themselves in, do so; they have no regard for those who are already in possession of seats; but, as there are no divisions, the new passenger coolly gets into the vehicle, and placing himself between two others, sits down, and relies upon his own weight making the other two sufficiently uncomfortable, to aid him in establishing himself between them.

They all smoke, and unceremoniously discharge occasionally across you, and in every other respect are unusually dirty citizens; and, for some incomprehensible reason, when stages meet, the recognition of friends is announced by enormously swearing at each other, and in language that places blasphemy, if possible, as a light offence, comparatively.

The road to Placerville is the best I have travelled. About twenty-five miles lie across the plain, the remainder is a gradual ascent, each mountain increasing in magnitude, till, through the forest of straggling oaks and pines mingled together, the heights over Placerville are gained.

The road passes through several very rich "diggings," and even the surface-soil supplies a great amount of gold; this earth is thrown up like beds in a garden, a path is left between each, to mark the respective property, and so it is left till the winter provides the water for washing out the metal.

Placerville itself is extremely fertile in good quartz-lodes; but the want of water precludes their being worked but at too

great an expense. The town is one long street, containing some seven hundred or eight hundred inhabitants, but sustaining a mining population of probably five thousand.

The mining community have it all their own way in the mountains, and if there is reason to suppose that gold may be found in the soil of the streets, they are immediately dug up, and the travelling vehicles may find another road as best they may; the miners will even undermine the houses, sometimes they will prop them up, but generally that is left for the owner to do; this is "liberty!"

"A few days since, a party of miners took up claims in the streets of Weaverville.

Much excitement was caused by the

movement, and merchants and business-men were among the first in staking out claims as soon as it commenced.

A number of holes have been dug, but we are not yet advised of any very rich results.

Many of the races with which the hills in the immediate vicinity of the town are worked, are no longer well supplied with water.

Miners are consequently going to the main streams, that are usually too well filled with water, to be worked with advantage.

In consequence of this movement among the miners, Weaverville does not wear as lively an appearance as it did a short time since."

Some very beautiful marble, of two descriptions, has been sent to the governor, who showed it to me; it is black and yellow, susceptible of a high polish. Some of it is to be sent to the States, to be used in the Washington monument.

I dined to-day with Mr., commonly called "Colonel" G—n. Salmon, mutton, pudding, and coffee, all crammed down one's throat together; then cigars and brandy, in a small close room. Made an excuse to get away, and walked about in the air, till the execrable smell of tobacco had left my clothes.

This morning Dr. R—th—d W—r

called: he wants me to get the company I act for, to grope the San Joachim for gold, by means of diving-bells. I believe he has good ground for the project, but the expense would be too heavy. He smells like an old cigar, confound him

CHAPTER III.

THE LAND OF FREEDOM!

More specimens of the highly-civilized state of the "great Republic," the seat of true freedom!

"A short time since, a white man, whose soubriquet was 'Sheep Jack' (name not remembered), was murdered on that stream.

A party of some thirty men, from Salmon, then congregated at the trading-post, at Orleans bar, their object being to

get a reinforcement to attack the Indians at their fishing-ground, they numbering from one thousand to twelve hundred strong.

Here a tragedy took place, that at once put an end to the expedition.

At the store, while conversing, drinking, &c., preliminary to an organization, a dispute arose (hard feelings having previously existed) between Martin Tony and a man whose soubriquet was 'Woolly,' alias Thomas Hinton, from Kentucky.

Woolly, who had made himself notorious as a character to be dreaded, after a little quarrelling, shot Martin through the body; he lived only fifteen hours after!

At the instant, a cry of 'Shoot him! shoot him!' resounded through the crowd,

and a man known as Anderson, whose name is Henry Atkins, pursued him.

Woolly, on finding himself pressed, turned, as he rounded a tree, when Atkins, drawing a horse-pistol, shivered his heart with its ball. He never moved.

This put an end to the expedition, and the brave and true men who, with a patriotic spirit, had visited the place with a view of wreaking vengeance on a band of murderers, placed their rifles on their shoulders and returned home. Not, however, without first holding court on Atkins. Verdict—'An honourable acquittal.'"

State Finances.—During the month of June the sum of ninety-seven thou-

sand, six hundred and eighty dollars was paid into the State treasury for school-lands, and the amount of scrip received to be funded under the act of the last session of the legislature, is one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, making a total of two hundred and forty-seven thousand, six hundred and eighty dollars. In addition to this, applications and affidavits have been filed for seven thousand, six hundred and twenty acres of school-lands, for which the warrants have not been issued.

It is to be hoped, that when the schools are in operation, freedom will be better understood and defined.

The Indians are frequently very troublesome, although all the murders by

arrows have not been committed by them.

Killed by Indians. — A man named Fry was killed near Neal's ranche, in attempting to recover some cattle stolen by the Checo Indians.

He was shot through the neck with an arrow.

A miner was found dead near Shasta city, with an arrow sticking in his breast.

The Indian Difficulties.—The quartermaster's train has just returned to Savage's farm, on the Fresno, for supplies. Their mules are entirely worn down, from fatiguing marches over the mountains.

They report the command lying by, for supplies.

Lieutenant Moore, with four privates, was out reconnoitering for a new road, and came across three Indians.

One of those Indians showed some hostility, in attempting to steal a pair of pistols from Lieutenant Moore—so they shot him.

As soon as the train joins the command with supplies, that body will proceed at once into Yeosemite Valley, where the hostile tribes are supposed to be assembled.

The post at Fort Miller is in charge of a sergeant and four privates, with a few sick. They are so effectually barricaded, as to keep out all hostile Indians.

A German, called Charley, left the Milk ranche for his usual place of work, Oregon Gulch, and in about two hours

after he left, Mr. Davis went to the Gulch, where he found the body of the deceased pierced with fourteen arrows, the sharp point of his pick driven into his cheek just below the eye, and his breast cut open with a spade. Many of the arrows were broken off in the body, and the spade was lying by his side.

Upon examination of his pistol, it was found that he had fired twice at his assailants, but without effect.

They did not rob his person of anything, as his pistol was found near him, and a purse containing four hundred and sixty dollars was found in his pocket.

A few nights previous to this, some thirty head of mules and horses were stolen by the Indians, from a ranche in the same neighbourhood.

We are informed, also, that two days prior to this murder, while the miners at this same Gulch were at work, the Indians went to their tents and houses, and stole all the pistols, guns, and knives that could be found.

An unfortunate affray occurred in the El Dorado, between a man named Fields and a Mexican, which terminated in the death of the latter.

Some words passed between them concerning the game at which the Mexican was betting.

It is said the Mexican drew a knife, and made demonstrations towards Fields, upon which Fields discharged his pistol three times, two balls taking effect.

The Mexican reeled, and fell a lifeless corpse.

Fields is in custody, awaiting his trial.

Horse Thieves—Two Mexicans Shot.—A fatal affray occurred near Carnduff's ranche, in this county.

A number of Mexicans had stolen a mule and numerous other articles, the property of Mr. Carnduff, and a Mr. Roberts, a young man about twenty years of age, went out in pursuit of the scoundrels. He killed one, dangerously wounded another, and frightened the rest.

He behaved with great courage, and, at the same time, great prudence in the

matter, and has done good service in the neighbourhood in which he resides."

Some more murders and summary executions are reported; the knife and pistol appear to be always ready in the hand of the American. Such deliberate murders, such unscrupulous executions, and such heartless descriptions of each, never distinguished any nation, excepting the "model Republic!"

CHAPTER IV.

JULY.—ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

THE fourth of July, of which the celebration annually and properly engages the mind of every American, was "put through" this day, the fifth, yesterday being Sunday.

The procession moved from Montgomery Street about ten o'clock, pro-

ceeded up Broadway, then along Stockton Street, Clay Street, to the Plaza, where it was halted to hear an oration upon the Declaration of Independence, delivered by the Judge of the Supreme Court.

The oration was well conceived and as well delivered: it was indisputably very creditable to the feeling and intellect of the judge; it was spirited and thankful, quite removed from bombast or boast, and its delivery occupied nearly two hours.

The procession itself was but a sorry affair. First of all came the gentlemen, who are here called the "pioneers," being the primary emigrants from the United States; following them were men decorated with light blue scarfs, and

others with sashes. Two companies of volunteers, dressed in military uniforms, came next: they seemed very little practised in marching to music, and looked very little like soldiers to the European eye; they were called the "City Lancer Guard," and "Marion Rifles." The lances of the first bore a strong resemblance to the weapons held by the redoubtable Beefeaters who exhibit upon a levée day at Saint James's; but those who bore them carried the similarity no farther. Many of these "gentlemen" evidently had misgivings with regard to their equestrian ability, and it seemed that most of them had too much to do, when called upon to manage a horse, and take care of a lance. They were dressed in blue, with buff facings.

The Marion Rifles consider themselves the élite of the volunteer military of the State: they are dressed in green, but wear gold epaulettes, thus counteracting the use of the green dress. This company of men has been organised by a German merchant of San Francisco, and is composed of a higher class of persons than the other corps of the place; but they are rather too fond of "playing at soldiers."

Some fire companies followed, dragging their engines, and then came Consuls, Army and Navy, Masons, and last of all a large number of Chinese, who transacted a procession after their own fashion, a fac-simile of which may be seen in pictures, and here and there on tea-trays.

The oration having terminated, the procession rapidly dissolved. The City Lance guard were drawn up before a drinking saloon, when the Captain commanding it, in consideration of the arduous duties of the morning, exclaimed—

"Boys! any of you want to liquor?"

Of course all did; so they broke up to rush to the bar, leaving their horses to their own pursuits.

The Marion Rifles marched about, and performed some evolutions in Montgomery, much to the obstruction of the passengers, but to the great satisfaction of their own body. The scarf and sash men were independently galloping about the streets from two till four in the evening; the fire companies went home

sulky, because one had been given an undue precedence. It was a rather ridiculous exhibition.

A great deal has been said about the gold-bearing quartz of Queen Charlotte's Island, lying past the northward of Vancouver. I have seen some of it, and it has yielded well; but whether there is any sufficient quantity, is not known. A British frigate has been there to examine, but the reports of the officers are not favourable: these, however, must have been very superficial.

No newspapers issued this morning;

it is urged as an excuse, that the entire staff of the printing offices had, by drinking too largely, totally incapacitated themselves for the morning duties. An evening sheet is promised.

An unusual importation of Celestials by British ships has just taken placs.

"*Heavy Arrivals of Chinese.*—During the past forty-eight hours, two thousand and sixty seven Chinese have arrived in this harbour in seven vessels, as follows:—

'Akbar,' 377; 'Viceroy,' 358; 'Duke of Northumberland,' 338; 'Augusta,' 164; 'Gulnare,' 152; 'Anna,' 178; 'Cornwall,' 500.

This immigration during two days is quite unprecedented in our record of foreign passenger arrivals."

These Chinese adventurers are the most quiet, inoffensive people that were ever maltreated by a stronger power; no sooner have they found out good diggings than they are dispossessed of them by the American miners, who, though an appeal to the law may eject the latter, yet then they so harass and annoy the timid Chinaman, that he is glad to remove, and content himself with some poorer location.

A duel came off this day (the eighth), revolvers the weapons, parties to fire

"ad libitum;" one revolver would not revolve, so the other had it all its own way. The fourth shot took effect slightly, but enough to "satisfy honour."

A Californian "loafer" has been rather roughly handled in Australia, for endeavouring to use a bowie knife against fists, the loafer having been the aggressor.

The United States are full of this kind of creature; it arises from the practice of the children being brought up without restraint; they are allowed to go where they please, do and say what they please. I have heard children of five or six years old swear equal to any

abandoned character; they next take their drinks, injure their constitutions, induce lassitude, and become "loafers," or idlers, drinking and quarrelling in the drinking saloons, and at bars.

The clipper ship "Tornado" came in this day. She is one thousand eight hundred and seventy tons register, but carries two thousand four hundred tons of cargo.

The Americans claim the credit of having solved the problem, "Is a model formed for speed, capable of carrying a large cargo?"

Undoubtedly the problem has been

very satisfactorily solved in America, by Mr. Donald McKay; but he is a Scotchman, not an American, though he built at Boston: so also they claim having built the fastest yacht, the "America," and boast of having beaten all the English yacht club.

The builder of the "America" was Mr. George Steers, an Englishman, of Dartmouth, though he built the "America" at New York.

The fact is, our mechanics finding their avocation over-supplied at home, go abroad to make a living, and the United States is enabled to boast of their performances, as if they were those of native talent.

A fire broke out this morning in the "Oriental," an immense wooden hotel—the fire-engines were upon it with extraordinary celerity, and got it under with very little loss to the building. These Fire Companies are extremely well organized, and the men zealous.

CHAPTER V.

ARRIVAL OF STEAMERS FROM PANAMA.

THE steamers "S. S. Louis" and "Tennesse" have recently arrived from Panama.

On board the first, during the passage of fourteen or fifteen days, forty deaths occurred, and on board the other, thirty-four.

This mortality originates in the climate

of the Isthmus, and is rendered fatal by embarcation on board the American steam-vessels running between Panama and San Francisco.

These vessels frequently carry a thousand passengers at a trip. The steerage passengers are packed together little better than negroes are on board slave ships; they lie on shelves one over the other; are often very ill fed, sometimes even water is stinted, although the passage is so short; and the ventilation is poorly provided for.

They have a person on board termed a surgeon, or rather, the doctor, who, as far as experience goes, I must say, is neither attentive nor capable. In point of fact, the only effort of the company owning these vessels, is, to gain the

greatest number of dollars for the least amount of outlay; once pay your fare, and you are no longer worth consideration.

The deaths on board these steamers cause the law officers of the State to institute a suit against them for having more passengers on board than by law they ought to have had.

It is well known that they each had some hundreds too many, but a jury acquitted both.

The trial was a mere mockery, but foreign ships having been seized for the same offence, it was deemed politic to make a show of impartiality.

After breakfast this day, I went with a party to see, first the model of San Francisco, in wood; it is extremely accurate; the wonder is, that since 1849, such a city could have sprung up to be modelled.

Then we went to see the Mint, conducted by Mr. Moffat; this is again a beautifully-arranged establishment, and will shortly pass into the Government of the State. Vast amounts of gold ingots were deposited in it, and at the time they were cutting long strips of gold in the shape of fifty dollar-pieces (octagonal), in preparation for coinage. We all felt grateful for the very kind and patient attention shown to us by the officers of the place.

After this, we went to have one of the

party daguerreotyped, which, I think, is a loss of time—this art, ingenious as it is, only makes life assume the hue of death, gives every one ugly mouths whether they are so or not, aggravates the defects of age, and robs youth of its freshness and vivacity.

The accompanying advertisements appear frequently in the papers, varied only by the name of the "Doctor;" the name is not adopted by any but physicians from the United States, and seems to place them upon an equality with grocers, shoemakers, and other tradesmen.

☞ *Medical Notice.*—Doctors Aldrich

and Mott have associated themselves in the practice of Medicine and Surgery.

They will attend promptly to all professional calls in the city, or from any point in the State.

Office, No. 32, Merchant Street, San Francisco.

E. S. Aldrich, M.D.

Valentine Mott, Jr., M.D.

Of New York, and late Professor of Surgery in the Washington University at Baltimore, Md.

☞ *Dr. Thomas J. White.* — Office and residence in Merchant Street, next door to the corner of Kearny, and opposite the Union Hotel.

Dr. T. J. White (formerly of St.

Louis) has removed from Sacramento to San Francisco.

Having devoted twenty-eight years to the practice of medicine in the East and South, and three in California, he hopes to enjoy the continued favour of the public.

CHAPTER VI.

A RIDING PARTY.

COMING down from the mountains to San Francisco, I arrived in time to engage in a riding party at seven o'clock this morning. There were two ladies and six gentlemen —all English, of course.

At the time appointed we assembled in Stockton Street, and went away, intending to pass to the sea by the way of the

Mission, then back to Sans Souci to breakfast, having previously ordered that meal to be ready.

At the Mission we left the road, and placing ourselves under the guidance of a gentleman named Wy—e, and whom we thought proper to elevate to the rank of a baronet, dashed in amongst the sand hills, and soon found ourselves without a road at all; but instead we charged across the country, and suddenly came upon a party of French charcoal-burners.

They received us with that natural good breeding so characteristic of their country. We asked the road to the sea beach; they put us into it, but said the sea was four or five miles distant.

A council was called, to determine the course to be adopted.

Gentlemen who were thinking of the rich breakfast awaiting them at Sans Souci, an inn near the Mission road, thought the distance too great for the ladies, and voted against prosecuting the original project.

The ladies, and especially Mrs. B—tt, whose spirit nothing could quell, wished for the sea beach.

Four gentlemen were of the hungry order—one wavered, and I took the ladies' view of the matter. The horses' heads of the majority were actually turned towards Sans Souci; an instant more the opportunity would have been lost. Sir W—k—n Wy—e, our newly-made Baronet, and myself re-echoed the exclamation of Mrs. B—tt, "To the beach — to the beach!" and giving our horses a touch of the spur, in an instant a revolution in opinion took

place; Sans Souci was thrown aside, and we were all in a gallop for the beach, which we reached in about half-an-hour.

The scene there was worth the ride; the surf broke in great grandeur upon the sands; a massive and perpendicular rocky cliff rose some five hundred feet above our heads, at the base of which the surges detached themselves into myriads of frothy atoms, as they in succession rolled against it.

A hundred yards from the shore, some rugged, precipitous rocks rose fifty or sixty feet above the sea. On these we could plainly distinguish the sea-lions in great numbers, as they awkwardly rolled themselves from the ledges into the water, howling at the same time in a tone that reminded me of fox-hounds in full cry.

It is really difficult to resolve upon leaving scenery of grandeur, and we remained gazing upon the incessant wave as it was driven back by the huge cliff, or wasted its strength upon the sandy beach.

The appetite for grandeur had, however, been sated, and that for the San Souci breakfast had not.

Sentiment does not thrive when combined with hunger. So away we rode, retracing our course over sandhills and here and there some firmer ground, till we gained Sans Souci, where we had a capital breakfast, and returned to Stockton Street by noon.

I never enjoyed an excursion more, and only regretted its brevity.

CHAPTER VII.

ARRIVAL OF THE THETIS.

THE Thetis, an English frigate, arrived.

I went on board, and found the Captain to be a connexion of mine. The vessel is a perfect ship of war.

What a difference in vessels of war since I first entered the service; I then belonged to a frigate of thirty-six guns—her tonnage was eight hundred and seventy-five.

The Thetis mounts also thirty-six guns, but her tonnage almost one thousand six hundred. She throws nearly as heavy a broadside as did a ship of the line I belonged to in 1814.

The Thetis had been sent to Queen Charlotte's Island, in consequence of the reported discovery of gold there.

That gold has been discovered there, is certain; but it is only known to be in one spot, over which the tide flows at half flood.

This is a quartz lode, and Captain Kuper thinks the obstacles to working it are insuperable.

It would be very desirable to explore the eastern shore of the Island, which is stated to shelve towards the main land, and to be very accessible.

The summer winds are blowing with their usual severity. A gale every day from ten A.M. to five P.M., in the entrance of the harbour.

Vancouver's Island is suffering from the protection of the Hudson's Bay Company, as it was predicted it would when Lord Grey, then Secretary for the Colonies, gave it into the control of that body. A governor independent of the Company was appointed, but his advisers were all officers of the Company.

So, finding he could do nothing towards developing the capabilities of the Island, he resigned, and an officer of the Com-

pany was immediately appointed in his place.

There is coal upon it, and some has been sent to San Francisco: the steamers to Panama and Nicaragua report rather favourably of it.

I have tried some of the quartz from Queen Charlotte's Island, and find it very poor. The little gold in it lies in a very thin strata of quartz, placed between a kind of slate of a very light blue colour; in this there is no gold, and the strata of quartz is not more than the eighth of an inch thick.

Many casual observers suppose, that because there is quartz in the rock, so the

whole rock is quartz, whereas nothing is more common than to see a narrow vein of quartz running through some most valueless stone, anything but quartz ; and this mistake has been made about the quartz of Queen Charlotte's Island.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE JENNY LIND PURCHASE.

THE purchase of the "Jenny Lind" theatre by the Common Council, for the City Hall, continues to be stigmatised as a very base act, and subsequently the Grand Jury spoke their opinions upon the question in the following terms :—

"The result of the evidence taken in the Jeny Lind cases—

'That one party considered chiefly interested therein, declared that it cost him near fifty thousand dollars to get the business through the damned Council.

That several indirect pecuniary inducements were held out by one member of the Council, in his private capacity, to another civic functionary—the inducement in the Jenny Lind case less indirect than the others—that the contracts for repairs are considered fair and reasonable.

That one hundred thousand dollars city warrants have been drawn on account of purchase money, thirty thousand dollars of them paid out, and seventy thousand dollars retained as security against claims.

That the party considered most in-

terested in said sale declared he would have fifty thousand to sixty thousand dollars left after the affair was finished, but only received from one thousand eight hundred dollars to two thousand eight hundred dollars, on account of unexpected claims coming in.

That he does not know the amount of claims that were due by him, nor to whom due; did not know exactly who his attorney in the business was, nor the christian name nor residence of his own clerk, and that he knows very little about his own business generally.

That one hundred thousand dollars county warrants have been paid out to the order of Merril and McVickar, on account of the purchase money.

That the mode of drawing the warrants

in this case has been a deviation from the usual course.'

The Grand Jury, although it does not find sufficient grounds to justify an indictment, is satisfied that the aforesaid purchase has been made in a manner derogatory to the character and dignity of the City Council, and contrary to the will of the people.

Important witnesses could not be found, and more may yet be elicited

The Grand Jury has inspected the Jenny Lind building, where they did not find even a watchman to give them any information.

They found the two Council chambers the only ones entirely completed, the roof in many places leaking badly, and repairs almost entirely suspended, though

from evidence there is reason to believe that nearly all if not the whole amount of thirty-seven thousand two hundred and fifty dollars contracted for has been already issued in city and county warrants ; and finally consider that a still larger amount and considerable length of time will be required to complete the building, and that when completed, it will be by no means well adapted to the purposes for which it is destined.

E. W. Graham, Foreman."

That the Council was heavily bribed, no one can doubt. Judge L—e had issued an injunction preventing the purchase ; but this injunction was quashed by the Supreme Court.

It is worthy of remark; that the

Grand Jury is the only body which speaks its feelings and opinions fearlessly in California. The press is unworthy of consideration farther than as a mere record of daily events.

Some quartz from Placerville has been sent to me to try; like all the quartz from that locality, it gives excellent results.

Madame Biscacianti, who is much lauded here, volunteers her services in Grace church in aid of the funds of that church; the funds are at present very low, simply because the clergyman, who is a Belgian, will read and preach in

English, which language he cannot pronounce in an intelligible manner; so people do not subscribe. The attraction to-night is termed an Oratorio, which is a misnomer; all kind of music, mixed with a little sacred, is advertised, and a bar providing "drinks" of all descriptions is temporarily put up in the church. So much for the sacred character of the thing. It has been a common practice to hold concerts in the churches here; but that having given some offence, the term Oratorio is substituted.

The prosecution of the steamer "S. S. Louis" has been spoken of in previous pages: the following is some of the

evidence upon which a jury pronounced that vessel "*not guilty*" of carrying more than her allowed number of passengers.

"On the part of the Government there was produced the testimony of the person who measured the vessel after her arrival, and also of several of the passengers who came up in her.

A portion only of the orlop deck was occupied by passengers, and on it were erected one hundred and twenty single berths, though the law allows for the superficial space within the apartment only about twenty-four passengers.

On the lower deck, the vessel is by the legal measurement entitled to carry in the steerage a fraction over one hundred and seventeen passengers. There were two hundred and twenty-two berths

in that place, constructed of substantial material."

This is a fair sample of what may be expected from Californian jurymen, and American steamers. Slaves could scarcely have been closer packed.

Captain Vt—g—z, of the U. S. Custom Service, has offered me a cruise for a few days; so as I am waiting for the ability to prosecute the objects of the company, and cannot hear for a fortnight, I have accepted; and at ten this night I embark with him on board his clipper schooner. The officers of the U. S. Custom Service have a great advantage over our own; they are men of a superior

order to ours, and hold rank with Captains in their navy.

General Scott nominated as the whig candidate for President. The men are firing muskets, and little boys letting off crackers in the streets to celebrate it!

There is vast enterprise shown in this country by diverting the large rivers from their courses by means of digging a huge trench sufficient to carry the summer stream; where the river takes a bend, this has been done with great success; often a channel is cut across the base of the half circle, and the river,

dammed out of its proper course, is driven into the other.

By this method a long range of the river bed is left dry; it is then completely turned upside down, and, to my knowledge, in one instance, from a crevice in the bed rock thirteen feet long, eighteen *inches* wide, and fifteen *inches* deep, gold amounting to twenty-one thousand dollars was taken out.

Ditches are also cut high up in the rivers, and the water is then carried round the sides of the several mountains for twenty and even thirty miles.

The men digging for gold pay for this water at the rate upon an average of a dollar an inch per day, which they take from the ditch through a small sliding door, and then through troughs reaching

IX.

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when put together often three hundred feet; into these the soil is thrown, which the water washes away, leaving the gold in receptacles made for its deposit. Many of these ditches are paying forty per cent. per month.

CHAPTER IX.

OUTRAGES.

I HAVE reserved the pages of July for the atrocities of the month, as related by the several newspapers of the State. The first is an outrage, which, it is alleged, was committed by "two Englishmen." The "yell" is, however, especially characteristic of the American, and the whole "outrage" so much in unison with the style of events which follow, that it may be fairly charged against that country.

"*An Outrage.* — Yesterday morning, about one o'clock, two men were dashing about our streets on horseback, yelling, &c.

As they passed by officer Robinson, of the police, he turned his light on them to see who they were, when they insulted him most vulgarly, and one of them raised his pistol, aimed, and fired.

The ball struck within a foot or two of the officer.

We can scarce conceive of human beings committing such a cool and gross outrage as this.

They could not be found afterwards, but it was learned that they were two Englishmen. It is to be hoped that they will be brought to justice."

"*Man Shot.* — We learn from Mr.

Woodward, of Adams and Co.'s Express, that a man by the name of Darbin was killed by another named Fuller, in Napa Valley, on Sunday night.

Darbin's pigs had encroached upon Fuller's premises; in consequence of which a quarrel ensued, and Fuller shot Darbin with a rifle."

"*Tragedy on Bear River.*—We had the pleasure of an interview, yesterday, with Mr. Alfred Bowlby, from Hamilton county, Ohio, who has just arrived from the plains.

A most melancholy tragedy was enacted on Bear river, about the time Mr. Bowlby and party were passing that point.

Two men from Kentucky had a difficulty, in the course of which one shot the other.

The next morning a jury was summoned from the train, the man was tried, found guilty of murder, and sentenced to be shot, or leave the train. Two mules, with arms, &c. were offered to him, and he was ordered to choose, to leave or be shot.

He replied, that he was a Kentuckian, and would rather die an honourable death than run.

He was accordingly taken out, and seven rifle-balls lodged in his breast—he giving the signal to his executioners to fire.

We regret exceedingly that the names of the parties are not remembered.

The man who was shot was quite an old gentleman, and the homicide was a young man.

Mr. Bowlby's party found the body of a murdered man on the Humboldt river. It was supposed he was murdered and robbed by his travelling companions."

"The 'El Dorado News' gives an account of a horrible tragedy, which occurred recently on the plains, between two brothers-in-law, Beasley and Beal.

The parties agreed on a separation, and Beasley got the weaker team, and had a sick man in his waggon.

Immediately after the division, he hitched up his team and proceeded on his journey, leaving Beal at Green River.

In a few hours after, Beal started, and in the course of the day overtook Beasley, on a hill, where he had stopped to rest his mules.

The former turned out of the road, and

passed by; the latter asking him if it was his intention to leave him (Beasley) with the sick man?

Upon Beal's answer being given in the affirmative, Beasley stepped in the front of his own waggon, drew out his rifle, and deliberately shot him down, killing him instantly.

A large train came up about this time, and stopped and buried the murdered man.

Beasley was tried, found guilty, and shot the next morning.

Both were from Kentucky."

"*Horrible Murder—Two Men Killed.*—Mr. Colton, deputy sheriff of Siskiyou county, has informed us that a most horrible murder was committed on Sunday morning last, about thirty miles south

of Yreka, on a new trail leading to Martin's ranche.

The circumstances of the murder are briefly these:

Mr. Rechter left Yreka on Saturday morning last, with ten mules, and was accompanied by two strangers, as passengers, and a Mexican servant.

This servant was observed to consult briefly with two of his countrymen, who made their appearance from the roadside.

At night all went to sleep, except the servant, who was left at work about the fire.

About one o'clock in the morning, Mr. Rechter awoke, and found his head badly cut, and bleeding profusely.

Within a few yards of his bed two men were heard struggling.

Mr. Rechter deemed it proper to go at once to Martin's ranche and procure assistance, and when he returned in a few hours, his mules could nowhere be found; and it appeared that one of the passengers had been killed on the instant, and the other had been so severely wounded by pistol and knife, that death resulted in a very short time.

The names of the two unfortunate men were not known."

"*A Diabolical Murder.*—Mr. William Ravenhill, the keeper of the toll-bridge on San Francisquito Creek, between this and San José, was found brutally murdered in his house yesterday morning.

The deceased was lying on the floor, three balls having entered his head, no doubt causing his immediate death.

All the trunks and chests in the house had been ransacked and broken open, with an idea, no doubt, of obtaining a large sum of money, which the deceased was supposed to have had on his premises.

At the time the body was discovered it was yet warm, and a tea-kettle, which had been placed on the fire, was still heated. It is evident that the deed was committed but a short time before his breakfast-hour.

The evening previous, a man who is known as 'Dutch John,' and a vegetable vender, residing about eight miles distant, had stopped there all night, whilst on the way to this city.

This fact was known, and immediately Messrs. Allston and Berton started in pursuit.

They overtook Dutch John at the Mission Dolores, who, when first questioned, denied that he had remained at the bridge all night, and stated that he was at home.

There was some blood on his shirt, for which he did not account in a very satisfactory manner.

The sum of eighteen dollars fifty cents was found in his possession.

He was arrested by a police-officer, and confined to await an examination.

The deceased had been in this city but a day or two before, and probably had deposited all his ready money.

He was well known to many of our citizens, and was universally esteemed.

He was about fifty years of age, an Irishman by birth, and was recently from

Brooklyn, New York, where his family are now residing.

This is one of the most foul and atrocious murders we have yet been called upon to record, and demands that the severest punishment known to the law should be inflicted upon the perpetrator."

" *Grand Larceny.*—Joseph Sweet, formerly of Illinois, but late of 'nowhere,' got himself into a sweet scrape yesterday.

Mr. Ibbidesher, on his way to this city, stopped at the Prairie-house, on the Hangtown-road, for dinner, and left one thousand six hundred dollars in his waggon. On returning to the waggon he missed the money, and immediately charged Sweet with having stolen it, which the latter stoutly denied.

Strong threats of being tried before Judge Lynch, however, soon made him 'acknowledge the corn,' and he showed his captors where he had buried the money, in a piece of woods near the house, and delivered up all but about sixty dollars.

Last evening he was delivered over to the authorities in this city."

The "outrage" standing first, seems to me to be eclipsed by the native American feats which have distinguished this month.

CHAPTER X.

THE COSUMNES TRAGEDY.

THE Sacramento "Union" contains a long report of the trial and execution of a Frenchman named Raymond, who was executed by the people of Big Bar, on the Cosumnes, for the deliberate murder of a Chinaman.

He was tried in due form by a jury of twelve men, who rendered a verdict

of "guilty of murder in the first degree."

The following is the account given of his execution :—

"About eight o'clock P.M., the excitement was over, and the question was called whether the prisoner be delivered into the hands of the civil authorities, or whether he suffer the punishment inflicted by law for murder.

The house was then divided, and it was decided that the prisoner suffer death.

The question was then asked, 'When shall the prisoner be executed?'

And it was answered unanimously, 'Forthwith.'

The prisoner was then informed of his sentence, and if he had anything to say, he would be heard.

He stated that he had nothing to say, only that he wished to be granted one hour.

The request was granted, and he was informed that any persons that he wished to see, would be admitted into the guard room, but only two at a time.

He then requested a friend to state that he wished to be shot, instead of hung, in the following manner, viz. :

That ten men be placed ten paces in front of him with rifles, all loaded with balls, and that he personally should give the word to fire.

This request would have been granted him, if possible ; but not a man could be found willing to execute it.

He then wished to have ten Chinamen ; this was objected to.

He then asked for the rope, and soap to soap the rope.

When he had but fifteen minutes of time left him, he asked for another half hour, stating that it would not be lost time, that he would converse with any person as familiarly and pleasantly as ever he did.

An elderly gentleman present then asked him if he felt no concern for his soul, and if he was prepared to go into eternity and meet his God, to answer for his deeds done in this world.

He very coolly replied that he had his own religion, and that required no preparation, but wished to know if the half hour had been granted him; that they need not think it lost time, as he said before, for if it was agreeable he would

relate a funny story, one that would make everybody laugh; but receiving no reply, he said—

'Never mind, I will tell it when we get to the place of execution.'

The half hour was allowed him, which he vainly spent in endeavouring to draw those about him into conversation.

When the time had expired, he was taken to the place of execution on the banks of the river, where a large fire had been kindled.

'That is right, gentlemen; I like to see a good fire on the occasion; but you will allow me a little time to speak, before you pull me up.'

He was asked how much time he wished.

He said, 'half an hour.'

He was allowed fifteen minutes.

He then stated that he came to California, across the Plains, in 1850—that he had worked in Drytown, and at Mo-quelumne Hill, and at several other places—that he came to California to make his fortune, and he lost his life.

'Some of you,' said he, 'may call this good diggings, but I hope some of you may not find the same kind of diggings I have.'

It was thought he would give some information of himself, as no person knew anything about him; but when asked to give his name, he answered that he had papers to show his name, when it was necessary to give it.

When first brought to trial, after much solicitation, he stated that he was known

in Drytown by the name of Rogers, but that was not his name—that his proper name was Raymon.

He was known on the bar as Monsieur, or the Frenchman.

He inquired how much time was left him, and was answered nine minutes and a half.

'Well,' said he, 'I have nine minutes and a half more, gentlemen.'

He then requested to have his arms untied, that he might himself adjust the rope, and tie the handkerchief over his face: but this was not permitted, as it was supposed he intended to plunge into the river, he having made one attempt to escape during the evening.

He said no more, but counted the time to the last half minute.

When the handkerchief was drawn over his face, he said—

'Allow me, gentlemen, a moment to say my prayers.'

Which was granted; when he said, 'I am ready,' and was immediately drawn up.

A party was despatched to dig a grave, and after hanging forty minutes, he was taken down, examined, pronounced dead by a physician, and the body decently interred."

CHAPTER XI.

AUGUST.—EXECUTION OF TANNER.

An execution took place yesterday, by the sentence of a legal court; this is rather a novelty, for Judge Lynch's court has generally presided over such affairs. The prisoner was from Sydney in Australia; he had been frequently apprehended for very daring and extensive robberies, and merited his fate.

The execution in itself was brutally conducted, amidst the jeers and laughter of the crowd; so little care appears to have been taken of him while in prison, that on the day of his execution some stupefying drug was conveyed to him, and when brought out he was altogether insensible, in which state he launched into eternity. Well might he "die without a struggle."

"Tanner, who was sentenced to be hung at this place yesterday, for stealing, expiated his crime on the scaffold, precisely at twelve o'clock.

The scaffolding had been erected under the superintendence of our worthy sheriff, M. Gray, Esq., a few hundred yards north of the jail, on the common, to which the poor culprit was conveyed in a carriage,

being totally unable to walk, either from the effects of an opiate or the paralization of his nerves through fear.

Arriving at the scaffolding, the prisoner had to be carried by the Sheriff's assistants from the carriage to the drop.

After the prisoner was placed upon the scaffold, the Sheriff read the death-warrant to him and the people, and asked whether he had anything to say.

To this question the prisoner made no reply, by word or sign.

A few moments afterwards, the rope was adjusted around his neck, and he was hurried into eternity.

Tanner made no confession of his crimes that we know of. He died without a struggle."

CHAPTER XII.

BODEGA BAY.

I AM at sea with Captain Ot—g—r in his beautiful schooner, and making the best of his way to Bodega Bay, where a large American merchantship has been wrecked.

Bodega Bay had formerly a Russian establishment in it, but the whole of the interest of that country has been sold by those who had the right to sell. A person

named Ross bought a large tract of land there, but since the country has fallen into the hands of the Americans, and the gold has been found; so any claim to the property must first pass the ordeal of the Commissioners appointed to investigate titles, and then it will have to contend with "squatters," miners, and such kind of tenantry.

Captain Ot—g—r and myself landed, and found one house only in the bay. The owner of this had got about forty acres planted with potatoes, which appeared to be flourishing; and as these are highly prized at San Francisco, he probably will be well recompensed for his industry.

The bay is sheltered only from the north-west winds, though to the south a

long sheet of water, called Tumelas Sound, stretches off in that direction a long way, but the water is shallow, not more than twelve or thirteen feet in depth. The wreck of the merchant ship was occasioned by getting too close in during a fog, and a subsequent gale.

From this place the small vessels of San Francisco go to bring down lumber, some fine pine forests affording large quantities of it. Saw-mills have been erected, and everything speaks of the "go-ahead" style.

After all, this boasted go-ahead system is little beyond hurry in putting up, and rapidity in breaking down, or "bursting up," as the Americans designate a bankrupt.

CHAPTER XIII.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE'S BAY.

From Bodega Bay the schooner ran to Sir Francis Drake's Bay.

This is formed by a precipitous headland called Point Keyes; from the lands falls away to the south-eastward for six or seven miles; the whole way an unapproachable, coast with steep and high cliffs.

Rounding the south-east point, the Bay

is entered, and good anchorage in five fathoms may be had a mile from the shore, and sheltered from the south-east gales of winter. Indeed the whole Bay is surrounded by land, but the eastern shore is too far distant to afford much shelter should a gale blow from east-north-east to east-south-east; from any other wind it is secure.

Captain Ot—g—r and myself landed, and walked over the ground for some hours.

The bay is joined to the main land by a very narrow neck of land, scarcely a mile across; from this narrow part, by drawing a line to Point Keyes, thence to the south-east point of the peninsula and back, a triangle would be formed, comprising some thousand acres of extremely fertile land,

and which, were it in the hands of any but men who never look for a fortune unless it can be made in a twelvemonth or less, would be one of the most valuable acquirements in California.

There has been at some period a small cattle establishment here, but the shanty is now in ruins.

The ground is admirably calculated for sheep farming; the only fencing necessary would be across the narrow part, or isthmus, joining it to the main land.

A stream of water runs from the north through the length of the ground nearly; and though it was now the season when everything in California is burnt up, yet here the herbage was both luxuriant and green. This arises chiefly from the slope it takes from the heights of the sea cliffs

to the shore of the bay, together with the fogs, which during this period, that is all the summer, prevailing, the ground is preserved against the intense heat which entirely prostrates Californian culture elsewhere.

The distance from San Francisco is but twenty-five miles, so that sheep and cattle could easily be supplied from the Bay. I scarcely think wheat would ripen, or it would suffer from rust; but turnips, potatoes, beets, &c., would do extremely well.

This peninsula might be made a second Gibraltar, if any nation thought proper to take it in war from the Americans, and it would command the entrance to San Francisco, Point Keyes being the headland most frequently first made by ships first going there.

Coming out of the Bay, a fishing vessel sent a paper on board, which contained the death of Mr. Clay, the well-known American statesman. It also informed us of some duels, in which "General" Denner kills Mr. Gilbert, editor of the "Alta California," a newspaper; Mr. John Morrison kills Mr. Legget of Rich Bar; and W. S. Spear, "Esq.," encounters John Kelly at Marysville, fire three harmless rounds, then withdraw, and bury animosity in friendly "drinks."

"*Fatal Duel.*—We learn through Wells, Fargo and Co.'s Express, that a duel took place on Tuesday last at Rich Bar, on the North Fork of Feather river, between a Mr. Wm. Legget and Mr. John Morrison.

The parties fought with Colt's pistols, at a distance of ten paces.

On the third interchange of shots, Mr. Legget fell mortally wounded, and immediately expired.

The cause of the difficulty is not known.

None of Mr. Legget's shots took effect."

"*Another Duel.*—We understand that W. S. Spear, Esq., and John Kelly, two Downievilleans, met the other morning to settle their difficulties before breakfast. Three rounds—nobody hurt. Result—a shake of hands, and toddies for all."

At ten P.M. Captain Ot—g—r anchored his schooner at San Francisco, and I left him, feeling very grateful for a very pleasant cruize.

Returning to my quarters in Stockton Street, I found Dr. and Mrs. B——tt had come from Marysville, intending to make San Francisco their residence. I sincerely hope the change may be of service to Mrs. B——tt's health.

CHAPTER XIV.

AMERICAN LIBERTY.

A SPECIMEN of American "liberty" occurred at Contra Costa this day.

A man named Hardy had bought a house of another, whom a Mr. Van Buren had placed in it to take care of it.

On application to Hardy to quit the premises, bought and sold fraudulently, he refused.

Van Buren commences a suit against Hardy, the court declares in his favour, he goes with the sheriff to be put in possession, whereupon Hardy shoots the sheriff immediately he approaches the door.

In due time Hardy is tried, and, as a matter of course, found "not guilty," after having declared to the sheriff that he would shoot him if he came.

So much for juries here.

The sheriff died on the spot.

A squad of Amateur Lancers are playing ludicrously enough at soldiers in the streets; they are practising to fall into procession to-morrow upon the oc-

casion of going through the absurdity of acting Mr. Clay's funeral, who has already been very decently buried in America.

The public buildings, the several churches, institutions, hotels, and many shops, are hung with black, in respect to the memory of a great man, which is quite called for; but why go through the mockery of dragging a hearse and empty coffin round the city, with no corpse to bury? After all, this display of respect does not close one theatre, or any other place in the city.

The following execrable occurrence is reported in the Mariposa Journal, and

savours very strongly of the most barbarous times in England, when old women were thrown into ponds to ascertain whether or not they were witches: if they sunk they were innocent, but drowned; if they swam they were witches, and were burnt, stoned, or otherwise put to death. The old man in the present instance, has been treated with scarcely less fiendish barbarity by the citizens of the "*most civilized nation*" and the "*model Republic!*"

"Carrico, a young man from some of the Western States, was found guilty of robbing the house of Messrs.Moore and Company, of the sum of nine hundred dollars.

This robbery was committed on Sherlock's creek, seven or eight miles from

this place, and suspicion at the time being directed to an old man named Johnson, he was arrested by the mob, and hanged by the neck until he became insensible, and whipped upon the bare back in the most cruel manner; but all this failing to extort from him the theft, Mr. Carrico, who was the leader of the mob, proposed to place his bleeding and lacerated body upon hot embers, and to extract the nails of his fingers and toes with a pair of bullet moulds; but this diabolical proposition meeting with no support, the poor old man, more dead than alive, was set at liberty.

A few days thereafter, Mr. Carrico left the neighbourhood under rather suspicious circumstanccs, and being followed

by an officer and arrested, a part of the gold dust, the identity of which he had endeavoured to destroy by beating it up, was found upon him; which circumstance connected with others, led to his conviction, and sentence to five years in the State Prison."

A party have assembled in Stockton Street to witness the procession supposed to be following the funeral car of the late Mr. Clay.

There was the usual display of an amateur soldiery, officers of the government, army and customs; no ships of war in the harbour, so no naval officers; the

judges and bar, masons, and sundry other associations; the eternal Fire Companies and their engines, the latter very much bound up with crape.

The hearse trimmed up to look as much as possible like a funeral car, with a coffin beneath the canopy, it took its course all round the city, and then halting in the Portsmouth Square, a good oration, descriptive of Mr. Clay's worth and talent, was delivered by one of the judges, I believe. This being finished amid the heavy report of minute guns, "drinks" became the next consideration.

Hardy, who murdered the sheriff at Contra Costa, has been acquitted.

This is quite in character — theft is held here in a far more criminal light than murder ; by theft, all may lose dollars and cents, but if a man is murdered, that is only loss of life to him, and therefore is not much regarded. It certainly is the case, that murder is much more frequent than robbery.

A gentleman, Dr. Collyer, has projected an amalgamator and crusher in one. It is perhaps the most compact of any of the almost numberless contrivances for crushing quartz that I have seen.

There is a heavy roller, which makes but half a revolution, and runs back again; in this the crushing and grinding actions are combined. From this roller, the ore has to pass through some extremely fine wire gauze, so fine that the ore must be in powder to filter through it from this point of filtration; it must pass again beneath a succession of small rollers revolving in mercury, and leaving these, it goes over a mercury bath.

Possibly, from the casual view I had of the machine, I may not be quite right in my description, but I am not far wrong—I am quite satisfied that anything which will abolish the stamper, must be an improvement so far as rapidity and amalgamation is concerned. The

Chilian mill, if made to revolve with rapidity, would be infinitely superior to the stamper, because by the crushing and grinding motion the gold is cleansed from exterior coatings of several substances which frequently prevent amalgamation, and the gold is then passed off with the refuse stream unobserved.

The "Alta California," a newspaper of San Francisco, has an article in it of deep importance to England. The Editor, with much feeling, tells how we can be as free as the United States of America.

I subjoin a sample of that freedom he would infuse among the English.

The San Joaquin "Republican" contains the following under date of August 17:—

"This evening the town is rife with the report that Major James D. Savage has been killed.

The particulars, so far as heard from, are as follow: Savage had left his camp on his way South to attend a grand feast given by some of the tribes, and stopped at Campbell's Ferry on King's River to take breakfast with Major Harvey and others.

During the meal, a dispute arose between them. Savage, making some remarks, was slapped in the face by one of the party.

He immediately jumped up from the table, and either caught his pistol against the table, or in attempting to draw it,

let it fall to the ground, when Major Harvey and two others fired at him, killing him instantly, the three balls taking effect.

Judge Marvin, in attempting to assist him, was knocked down by a blow on the head from a pistol in the hands of one of the party.

How many of the above circumstances are true, cannot be said, but there does not appear to be a doubt as to the death of Major Savage.

G. D. Brush."

The above letter is sufficient to put all doubts to rest, as it has been confirmed by similar reports in other sections of the country.

A great deal has been said in the United States papers upon the subject of a method, said to be devised by Mr. Ericson, a Swede, of propelling ships by the expansion and contraction of air.

It is treated as original; this is an error, the plan was rejected many years ago at Glasgow; it was also offered some twenty years since to the British Government, tried, and there also rejected.

Mr. Ericson has, however, a right to claim one part as his own — this is the "regenerator," by which he makes some essential saving.

Should it answer, of course steam would be disused; but it is feared by those conversant with such matters, that he will not be able to gain a sufficient power.

For some time I have had a severe influenza attack—these are not at all unfrequent at San Francisco; the hot sun at this season is succeeded by cold evening fogs, which, indeed, are equal to small rain. I am under the hands of an English physician, who seems to understand it very well; but what with waiting for supplies from the directory at home, protracting the completion of quartz negotiations, and keeping accounts, I have a good deal to bother me.

There is a quartz-lode very much cried up, of which a person in Marysville, uniting in himself the title of colonel and occupation of shopkeeper, is endeavouring to sell to an English company; this day he, rather unwillingly, gave me six

or seven pounds of the quartz; it is very shabby-looking stuff, and altogether very unlike what he has heretofore exhibited as quartz coming from his lode; in my opinion, the two samples did not come from the same place—the trick is too old now.

Mr. D—s, mining-agent, sent out by the —— Company, to advise me upon quartz matters, has sent in a high report of the quality of the Dicksburgh quartz-lodes, for which I am negotiating. I send it home, as this is his department; and though I cannot see the lodes in the same superior light, yet I must hesitate before I place my opinions, so little practised as I am, in opposition to his, a miner in Mexico, Brazil, and England, for forty years.

Mr. D—s, who is recruiting his health at Contra Costa, was leaning against the railings before his lodgings, enjoying the coolness of the evening, when suddenly a pistol was fired, and the shot struck close to his side. It was done by a man standing opposite, who was seized, but excused himself by saying he had mistaken his man!—a practice very consistent with civilized life!

"*Value of Property in the Mines.*—The total value of property in the town of Ophir, Placer county, as recently assessed, amounts to the sum of one hundred and thirty-seven thousand dollars. The assessor estimates the value of property in the Gold Hill precinct at one hundred thousand dollars.

Three years ago, these places were un-

known but to the Indians of the country; above, their present state is shown. At Grass Valley, the capital is chiefly English."

CHAPTER XV.

ATROCITIES OF THE MONTH.

I SUBJOIN some of the murders, &c. for the month.

"*Another Shooting Affair — One Man Dangerously Wounded.* — We are compelled to record still another affray, in which two men have been shot, one of whom has received a wound which may prove mortal.

Last evening, while a Chileno named Don Amiguel, who is the proprietor of a

dance-house in Fifth-street, was attending the door of his establishment, an American applied for admission, and was charged the usual fee, which he refused to pay. He was, of course, debarred admittance. Whereupon he drew a pistol and fired.

The ball entered the left side of the Chileno, below the lung, and passing entirely through his body, struck another American standing near on the wrist, and lodged between the bones.

The wound of the former is pronounced serious; but as the lung seems not to be affected, there is a prospect of his recovery.

The ball which had done this double execution, was extracted from the wrist of the injured man, who is not severely hurt.

The American who fired the pistol had not, at a late hour last evening, been arrested."

"*Murder.* — On Monday, the twenty-third instant, at daylight, an Indian by the name of Alverez was found dead in front of the Italian store, on the west side of Market-square, and the blood still running. His throat was literally cut from ear to ear, and two severe wounds had been inflicted with a knife in the region of the heart.

There being no clue as to the murderer, and a suspicion resting upon Francisco Costo, an Italian, and owner of the store, he was arrested, and taken before Justice Vermeule, and no evidence appearing against him up to the twenty-fourth, was discharged.

The witnesses recognized to appear are said to have given fictitious names, and never returned."

"*Another Murder.* — On Sunday night last, at the Almaden mines, Jesus Rodriquez took the life of Dimas Cervantes (both Mexicans), by stabbing him with a knife, as we understand, while they were both under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Rodriquez was brought to this city, tried before Mayor White; J. Alexander Yoell, Esq., prosecuting, and F. S. Mc Kinney, Esq., defending; and, upon a hearing of the evidence, was committed."

"*Another Man Killed.*—An Indian or Mexican was arrested on Monday last, in Santa Clara Mission, for the murder of another Indian or Mexican.

Particulars not known.

The murderer was committed for the Court of Sessions."

"*Murder.*—On Sunday morning last, a Mexican boy was whipped at Vallecito, by Dr. Wilson, for maltreating some American children.

Nothing more was thought of the matter until the next day, when the body of Captain McAlpin was found, stabbed in several places, lying in the Spanish part of the town.

One of the wounds penetrated the left breast to the heart.

When found, he had his pistol in hand, cocked, and his finger on the trigger.

He must have been killed upon the spot, as his pistol was not discharged.

Captain McAlpin resembled Dr. Wilson

very much, and there is no doubt of his having been victimized by the Mexicans, to revenge the chastisement the boy had received at the hands of the latter.

Captain McAlpin was an old resident of California, and highly esteemed by all who knew him.

His murder has engendered the deepest feeling of hatred toward the Spanish-American population, and we may soon expect to hear of a bloody expulsion from that camp of this class of foreigners."

"*Expulsion.*—The destruction of Greasertown by the Spanish incendiaries, so incensed the miners living around Latimore's Ranche and Mr. Lake's store, on the Calaveras, that they formed themselves into a company, with the determination to drive away every Mexican or Chilean they could find.

Accordingly, on Monday they marched to that camp, as we are informed, and expelled, *à la force*, several hundred of what had composed the population of a large portion of Greasertown.

Our informant states, that this place was the head-quarters of a desperate band of murderers and thieves, and that they here concocted many of the fiend-like schemes which, after having been consummated, have excited the horror and animosity of our whole community.

Several of these thieves who were recognized, were severely flogged.

The miners of Vallecito held a meeting, and passed resolutions to compel the Spanish-American population to leave in twelve hours.

From appearances, it seems that the

Americans in Calaveras and Tuolumne counties are determined to rid themselves of the Spanish-American people.

It may occasion considerable blood-shed."

CHAPTER XVI.

SEPTEMBER.

The strong north-west winds begin to lose their strength a little in this month; the weather manifestly changes for a more pleasant type.

After breakfast, I tried the quartz given to me by the "colonel" shopkeeper of Marysville; it proved, as I thought it would, almost valueless; the reputed lode is about twenty miles, northerly, of Marysville, close to a place called Hansonville.

The lode, whenever properly examined, will prove to be no lode at all, in my opinion.

Afterwards, I went to see a trial of extracting the gold from crushed ore, by means of a patented flux.

The patentee is a Mr. Longmaid, of London, we are told. If the gold could be separated in this manner, the process would be invaluable; but what an enormous amount of it would be necessary to separate the gold from fifty tons of crushed ore per diem—it would be almost a river; the trial, however, from some cause, proved a complete failure.

The "Herald" of this day contains an account of an execution, copied from

a New Orleans paper, in which two criminals suffer death. The deprivation of the lives of these offenders appears to have been hailed by the New Orleans editor, as a happy opportunity of using his whole force of ribaldry and levity; how any person professing christianity and civilization, could permit such an article to pollute the columns of his newspaper, it is impossible to imagine, unless I am wrong in supposing him to be a Christian and civilized being. That a San Francisco paper should reprint it, is only in accordance with what appears in the papers of that place on such awful occasions.

For a considerable time I have had

ague threatening; appetite gone, lassitude, and my head sounding like a hive of bees in full work, so Dr. B—tt must put me in good order again. I tried a ride in the forenoon, and when I came home I found a prescription from the doctor: an emetic formed the first operation. I hate this proceeding, it is such a vulgar way of getting well, but I suppose I must take it, so I sulkily sent for the medicine; it did me a monstrous deal of good nevertheless, and B—tt was very right; he is an English physician, and a clever one also. I was hungry by five o'clock, after having slept for three hours soundly; so I had tea and biscuits, and slept again till daylight.

Dr. B—tt next morning; alteratives and quinine, so the ague and a fever are regularly attacked: I am to lay up for three or four days. Unhappily for the third day, a riding party similar to that mentioned previously, had been arranged, so I joined it. We were nearly the same party, and did pretty much the same things: these parties, so purely English, and attended as they were by English ladies, are as purely delightful.

Received a lecture on my return, and the infliction of another emetic threatened.

This day, the seventh, very unwell, all in consequence of the ride, says the doctor:—very probably, but then he

should not let Mrs. B—tt propose riding parties; for who, ague or no ague, would refuse to join one, if he had breath enough to last him four or five hours? However, again the vulgar remedy; then a delightful sleep nearly all night.

Another party made up to go to Contra Costa by water—all arranged. In comes Dr. B—tt, and forbids Mrs. B—tt, Captain P—x, and myself, all three being on his hands; so that party "caved in," as American parlance has it.

The "San Francisco Herald" has a specimen of what it calls "deliberate

shooting." It represents that "Jem Taylor, a noted gambler," threatened to shoot "William Turner at sight," in consequence of which "Turner takes Taylor unawares," and shoots him dead; the surrounding throng approve Turner's conduct, and that is all that will be done in the matter.

Dr. B—tt is improving me rapidly, though the weather is intensely hot: thermometer ninety-seven degrees in the shade.

I am living in a boarding house, waiting for means to complete and carry on the purchase and mining works at Dicksburgh; the lodes, the mining agent sent

to advise me in these matters declares to be very superior.

He has the experience of from thirty to forty years of mining in Mexico, Brazil, and England. I have but two years in California, so I yield to his opinions, but I doubt his judgment; one thing I know, that unless English Companies can send out money to enable their superintendents to go on with confidence, they had better not "go into quartz," as say the U. S. citizens.

The ague hovers about me, and the doctor says I must "rise earlier." Considering my Directors in England deprive me of the power of doing anything, I

think if I am at breakfast by ten o'clock, I do very well.

Rise early in a San Francisco boarding house! and be jostled by the American "helps" in every room, or go out and take a morning walk knee-deep in sand, or dust! One cannot afford a ride at eight dollars per gallop, and even if it could be, the hacks here are so accustomed to the manners of the "Sovereign Citizens," that they do not at all understand quiet and gentlemanlike riding. These said citizens verify to a great extent the well-known adage which describes the result of a pauper's ride; they have the strangest seat on horseback that I ever saw.

He forms a nearly straight line from the toe of his boot to the top of his hat;

a perpendicular dropped from the latter point would strike about the loins of the horse, and a straight line drawn upwards from the boot toe, would strike about the centre of the horse's neck; thus the two feet would stand out not unlike the plough-shares of the locomotive, which are used, I believe, for removing snow. In each hand the citizen holds a rein, and raises them as high as he can, the horse at the same time elevating his nose to the highest extent of his power; and in this manner the citizen bumps about the saddle with enormous endurance, fully satisfied that he has accomplished the German seat on a horse.

A fire in Stockton Street last night; promised well at first, but not originating in account books, it was soon put out.

What a bother with the "helps!" they all resigned office early this morning, so we had to "help" ourselves, and fly to restaurants for breakfast. A new help-ministry was soon formed, but, after all, an American "help" is as much an obstruction: these boarding-houses are subject to all sorts of such changes, and are very comfortless.

A consultation with Mr. D—s on the

Dicksburgh purchase. Eight thousand dollars paid down, and bills for the remainder on England will conclude it: so that is to be done, and now we must get the gold out, if we can; Mr. D—s says it is there.

I gained no less than five "Phillipanas" this morning; two of the ladies paid me handsomely, two declared that I cheated, and one, a "Citizen" lady, wished she was in New York, as then she could get something to pay with!

Our society in this boarding-house is now very pleasingly composed. Two English ladies with their husbands, *five* children, one American gentleman, and five or six

English ; whist, chess, conversation, every evening—but on a sudden we are thrown on our own resources by a " stampede " on the part of the " helps."

The Thetis, English frigate, came in from Vancouver's Island ; in all respects a well-arranged ship of war.

A very ingenious piece of mechanism has been brought to San Francisco by a German, for the purpose of separating the gold from the iron pyrites by means of electro-magnetism. This it does effectually, but then there is the separation from the sand to be effected, and therefore the washing and amalgamation would be as

necessary as before the pyrites were removed.

On board the Thetis with my American friend, Captain O—tt—r; he only wore an undress, and his rank not being known, the due attentions to it were not paid on his coming on board. The Captain of the Thetis was much amazed when I told him who O—tt—r was, and on going away things were rightly done, which O—tt—r observed to me, and rightly attributed the omission to his being in an undress uniform.

The wind was blowing hard and cold; we got "kinder" wet, and at night I had

to amuse myself till morning, by applying relays of camomile poultices to allay the ear-ache, which, with a violent cold, I had acquired. Next day the ague came again —the doctor tells me a cruize at sea would, as a change of air, be of service, but to avoid getting wet; and O—tt—r has offered to take me out in his schooner for a week or so.

I was relating something about the rich "diggings" of Australia this morning in an apothecary's shop; a drayman stood by; pushing himself forward, he said to me—

"Well, Colonel, *whare* was that now?"

I am not a military man, but being addressed as one, I replied—

"I do not exactly know, General."

The drayman looked "ugly," not knowing whether to be angry or not, and

then "concluded" that I was "kinder smart."

Met General Estill at dinner this day ; by-the-bye, he is a real U.S. General, he informs me that he is engaged with others to bring the water from the south branch of the American river to the "diggings" about the Placerville district, but that they cannot supply water for a quartz mill from their canal ; if they could, there is a lode worth working in that vicinity.

The dinner was an attempt at the French style ; all the messing, but none of the delicacy. The American cook overwhelms everything with bad butter, or worse grease. More ear-ache after ; so I was determined to take it out in my room, coddling all day, and I was in consequence treated with a visit of enquiry from the

two English ladies staying in the house. I would willingly have the ear-ache again to insure their visits, for they *are* English ladies—rare birds in California, I admit.

Mr. D—s came down from the new quartz purchase; all settled and made over to me for the ——— Gold Mining Company; so now I am in possession of, Mr. D—s says, "a splendid property," and he might add, without money to work it.

The Directors seem to think that two or three thousand pounds will open a mine, put up machinery, and enable the said mine to be worked; that in a few months every shareholder will be a rich man.

They sit at home calculating the gains, and do not provide for the outlay.

Dined on board the Thetis, certainly thoroughly a ship of war.

On landing, a procession was met parading the streets, in celebration of "General" Peirce's election to the Presidency of the United States; he having "whipped" General Scott. The former General was assailed by a desire for military glory, threw down the attorney's pen, and rushed valiantly to the army then engaged in Mexico. When in an action there, it is alleged that he had lost his brigade, and was found looking for it with much zeal.

In that war of little affairs many private individuals became suddenly Colonels, Generals, &c., merely by leading a motley

tribe of volunteers to the army; and Mr. President Peirce was one of them.

The Thetis got her anchor up, and went to sea in good style.

CHAPTER XVII.

A LOOK AT THE CALIFORNIA GOLD MINES, BY A RUSSIAN ENGINEER.

THE annexed paper on Californian Gold Mining in quartz lodes, is worthy of consideration.

"By examining the different processes of mining, and particularly those used for auriferous quartzose ore, at the first glance I observed the complete absence of know-

ledge of the most common rules of metallurgy.

During my stay in the mines I met but very few persons able to ascertain the species of the quartz, its elements, the character of the soil, the announcements or assistants of gold, &c.

Most of them are entirely ignorant, and ground themselves on others' conjectures, more or less wrong.

With the simplest tool, and often with only an iron bar, the miners undertake boldly their task—they toil heartily, and begin to break and dig everywhere, persuaded that digging is all that is required to find gold.

After having digged a hole about one hundred feet deep, and found nothing, they go to do the same further up or down, or

in a transversal direction—running with anxiety from one place to another, and making a new trial in every one.

Finding nothing yet, they abandon the spot and go on seeking for another—the signs more or less wrong.

So they expend a great deal of time, labouring under every kind of hardship and privation, that can only be experienced by people of a strong nature and energetic resolution.

Should all these men have known the first principles of science, the most common sign of the presence of gold; or should they, at least, have had the leaders to guide them in their course, at the two or three first strokes with the crowbar they could have foreseen the uselessness of their attempt which they pursued in

vain for weeks; and instead of travelling many miles from that place, looking for richer mines, they could have discovered them at the short distance of a few feet.

How great was my astonishment, during my exploration, to see the richest mines left intact, and the people densely crowded around places that science would have designated at a glance as unworthy of any attention.

That is the way in which the gold mines are commonly searched in California; though it is true, that on account of the gold being so abundant in this country, the miners happen casually to meet with rich mines.

But does that often happen? And do they avail themselves as they ought to of such a chance?

After having considered, with great care, the common method of extracting the ore from the earth, and particularly from the auriferous quartz, I regret to say that the said process is still in its infancy.

All the machines used for washing the earth, or crushing the quartz, are in contradiction with the common rules of metallurgy, and even with the mechanical art.

Moreover, they are constructed according to the method that was known in Europe twenty-five years ago, and which has been abandoned or improved.

That explains why, in the working of the auriferous quartz ores, they lose forty per cent.; and in washing the earth by long-toms, or rockers, one-half of the gold is lost.

It is the fact, of which I am certain from repeated experiments, and which I am ready to prove.

Besides, I am sure I shall have on my side the opinion of every one who knows something about the mines.

Even the gold-searchers will not deny that the auriferous earth, after having once been washed, will still afford as much ore as those which never have been washed.

The second fault, of no less consideration, in all the quartz machines, is their enormous size, which is compatible neither with the locality of the quartz, nor with the position of the mines.

Most of the richest quartzose mines lie, as I am certain, on the tops of the hills, or near to the sources of rivers; there-

fore, it is almost impossible to work them with such machines, which require good roads for their transportation; and that the quartz miners are to confine themselves to the places to which they can go by roads.

Near to the Yuba I have seen the richest mines, that had been discovered three years since, and which will remain unworked until the road be completed to transport there the quartz machines.

Another inconvenience that results from the said size of those machines, is the high price they come to; so that before beginning to work any quartzose mine, according to the process alluded to, an investment of twenty-five thousand or thirty thousand dollars is unavoidable only for the construction of

machinery, not including the wages of the workmen, and other employées.

To invest such sums, it is necessary to ascertain that the mines are really rich, and the profit will be very great; and still, so large an amount of money cannot be obtained very easy, especially now, when it is difficult to form any company, and when most of the people, not knowing upon what ground to form their conjectures in regard to the richness of the mines, fear to be mistaken or deceived.

Thus many miners—after having discovered the mines, after many toils and every kind of privation—are obliged either to quit them, or sell for almost nothing, or to beg the permission to pound some tons of quartz at the price of thirty

or fifty dollars a ton, with a loss of four per cent. or more.

And it often happens that the miners receive nothing, when the gold is connected with silver or iron. The machines described are entirely useless in such a case.

These are my observations respecting mining in California, which my desire to be useful to the enterprising and working population of this State induces me to publish, happy if I can be useful to the cause of improvement, so much wanted in that important and wealthy branch of industry.

Flattering myself that I am entitled to some credibility, after twelve years of practice in the Siberian mines, where I superintended all the works of

different mines; being the inventor of several machines now in use in Russia: and what is due to my knowledge in metallurgy, procured for me from the Imperial Government, and from the principal mining company, a special commission to explore the gold mines of Europe and California, and also the diamond mines of Brazil.

I hope that all these observations may suggest to those occupied in the interesting pursuit of mining, the idea and desire of improving the same, that it may be profitable to the community, and their speculations successful.

It is, therefore, indisputable, that every miner should know:

First—The best mode of extracting all the gold from auriferous sand, quartz, and

iron, and of ascertaining whether all the gold is obtained from any ores.

Second—All chemical means, agents, and processes, by which the gold can be obtained and separated from the foreign matters, as silver, sulphuret, pyrites, &c.

In conclusion, I ought to say that the iron oxyde, called 'black sand,' that is generally thrown away without any attention, could give, at least, half the quantity of gold obtained from auriferous sand, from which that black sand is separated.

I call specially the attention of gold-searchers to that particular.

VICTOR PATCOOL."

With regard to the amount of gold

found in the " iron oxyde, called black-sand," I differ from the writer. I have often tried this oxyde, but have found no gold.

CHAPTER XVIII.

OCTOBER.

We English are sadly troubled about tea here: the United States citizen cares little about such small "drink," and knows less about the social comfort of our evening tea-table, so very little good tea is imported.

A great quantity of very wretched stuff is imported, and sold to the country dealers, steam boats, restaurants, and in

such directions. This is taken by those who travel, or use the latter; for though the American leaves his home of an evening for the bar-room, theatre, &c., yet in the steamers at supper, as they term the six-o'clock meal, they swallow this tea without asking a question about it, while I have seen the English instantly dismiss it, and take cold water in preference. Habituated to the bars, the American knows very little about good wine, spirits, or tea; the cheap, pernicious liquor of the saloon is his standard.

I have only been able to get good tea through a gentleman connected with a house at Hong Kong, and by the kind recollection of a relation living there, who has sent me, on several occasions, great treats in this way.

Captain O—tt—r has asked me to take a cruize with him, for ten days or so, in his schooner, the "Frolic." I am to embark to-morrow.

We cannot get either boots or shoes here, fit to wear—the soles of the shoes are kept on with wooden pegs, so I am sending old shoes to England as a pattern for others to be made by.

CHAPTER XIX.

CRUIZE WITH THE FROLIC.

On board the Frolic with O—tt—r: a beautiful clipper schooner, commanded by an excellent friend, and an intelligent officer. He belongs to the Revenue service, the officers of which take rank with the officers of the United States navy, though they are not eligible to command ships of war, otherwise than a

revenue cruizer can be considered as such.

There is also on board for a cruize a friend of O—tt—r's, Captain H—t—r, of the United States navy, and we are packed rather close in a very small portion of the schooner, called the Captain's cabin; in this place there are two sleeping berths, occupied respectively by O—tt—r and myself.

Captain H—t—r sleeps, or at least lies down in imitation of sleeping, on sundry bales of blue jackets, trowsers, woollen frocks, &c., and says he makes good weather of it.

The cabin may be about eight feet square, which space is almost filled up by a table; the height between the decks will not allow any of us to stand upright,

and to get into bed, it is necessary to assume a horizontal position, and glide into a recess called a berth, a space in this instance five feet ten inches long, twenty inches broad, and twenty high; this place, if unlike bed-places in general, had nevertheless its advantages; for pitch and roll, jump about as the Frolic pleased in all her eccentricities, she never could move you from the berth, when once fairly in it.

Curiously enough, Captains O—tt—r and H—t—r are both very sea-sick this morning.

It is blowing a stiff gale, and indeed the Frolic is frolicking with a vengeance; every conceivable motion is practised by the schooner, even though O—tt—r has put her under a close-reefed foresail, and

laid her to. He takes it quiet enough in his berth, but H—t—r discovers much impatience, and when the paroxysm of sea-sickness abates, he utters some terrible anathema against his folly, for coming with O—tt—r for a cruize; why he came, is a problem he vainly endeavours to solve. I came because there are ten days in which I must remain expensively idle at San Francisco, waiting for means to get to work upon the mines.

The gale very much interferes with O—tt—r's kitchen arrangements; he is himself somewhat too indifferent to the state of his larder, but the gale has rendered even the scanty fare exhibited in that region altogether unavailable, for the fire will not remain in; so we are reduced to biscuits and sardines.

O—tt—r clearly holds comforts in contempt ; a most unfortunate disposition for a visitor at sea to encounter, for there eating forms a great periodical employment.

Cape Mendorino is in sight, about twelve miles dead to windward, so we shall not get round it to reach, as was intended, Humbolt.

The growling capabilities of Captain H—t—r are in the process of a large development — he "wonders how he could have been persuaded to come to sea in the darned schooner!"

Fortunately O—tt—r promised to bring us back by the tenth, and as his word is truth, so far as depends on him, he will do so ; but H—t—r began to assail Ott—r with hints that it was time to turn back.

O—tt—r has a will of his own, and H—t—r gained very little by his motion. However, I had had enough of a Mendorino breeze, and therefore allied myself, or rather mediated between the two captains; the result of which was, that at half-past two the Frolic was put before the wind, on a course for San Francisco, to the extreme delight of H—t—r.

This morning, after the gale, a dead calm, and a thick fog. The cabin-stores, small in quantity at first, have painfully diminished—wood and water also perfectly on the wane.

H—t—r growls better than ever; a little appeased by the cabin-boy, Charlie,

having caught a fine fish, called a Snapper; the scales are a very delicate pink; the eye large, with a broad yellow rim encircling the dark hazel ball.

A council was held, to decide upon the manner in which the fish was to appear at dinner. I urged boiling; outvoted by O—tt—r and H—t—r, who favoured "chowder,"—not a bad dish, but something messy.

Still a thick fog; we can hear the surf break heavily on the beach, so O—tt—r has anchored the schooner, for it still continues calm.

H—t—r and O—tt—r went towards the shore in the boat, to ascertain, if possible, our locality; they came back with the intelligence that they had seen the rocks, near Point Rayes, and, indeed,

were very nearly thrown upon them. H—t—r had his hat washed off by a sea, which broke over the boat; in United States parlance, "they came near drowning."

On the evening of the thirteenth, a breeze from the north-west; up anchor, and all sail set for San Francisco, and anchored on the bar at night, in a calm and fog. H—t—r in good humour again, although we had scarcely anything to eat or drink.

Next day, in the harbour. Letters from the Board. Dicksburgh quartz-lodes to be purchased, and proper letters sent to enable the completion of the purchase. Also, I am informed that letters of credit

for an additional sum " have been sent;" but they have not arrived.

Met Judge L——, who is a candidate for the office of judge of one of the courts. One of his supporters, a dray-man, was passing with a load; he jumped off on seeing Judge L——, ran up to him, slapped him on the back, and exclaimed, " Well, old hoss (horse), how does the election go?" and away he went to his dray again.

The system of electing the judges for the several courts is highly prejudicial; if any man can resist all bias in favour of his party, Judge L—— will do it; he bears, worthily, a very high reputation.

CHAPTER XX.

CONTRA COSTA.

To Contra Costa this evening, the sixteenth, to confer with my legal adviser on the Dicksburgh purchase.

This is an assemblage of residences, scattered amongst oak-trees, on the low plain immediately beneath the Morte Diablo range; at present, it is very attractive, so far as the country is concerned, but rapidly sinking into the

defiling influence of the gambling and drinking saloon.

The hotel I went to had the same long dirty-clothed table-d'hôte; the floor redolent of discharged tobacco-juice, cigar-ashes, and ends. Dinner to me, and supper to the American, at six o'clock; when some twenty or thirty working-men, in working apparel, take their seats, having rubbed their hands and faces with a damp general towel at the outer door, and ran through their hair the general hair-brush, hanging on a peg in the wall of the dining-room!

Than these rooms, scarcely anything can be more disgusting; and the cookery is all grease and bad meat: liver and pork—the latter often from the groveller of the grave-yard, and always having the

run of the slaughter-house—are here held in much esteem.

After dinner, whist was proposed—Americans understand euka, poker, &c. better than they do whist. The system of "liberty and equality" was well illustrated this evening. The hotel-keeper stretched himself at length upon a sofa in the general sitting-room, and while I was playing, a waiter, in his shirt-sleeves, leaned over the back of my chair to see my play, whistling all the time. To compensate for all this, I had a bed-room to myself, and, what is very unusual here, two towels — put together, they would scarcely have made one English towel: the amount of the American personal lavatory must be very limited, if we are to judge by the towels.

The next day was a most unfortunate day for me. After the business I had visited Contra Costa to execute had been finished, I mounted a horse with the intention of riding to Martriver, and from thence take the steamer to Sacramento, en route to the mountains. I was attended by two companions; my horse incessantly tripped; we were riding a very moderate canter, and I was so sure of the brute's disposition to fall, that I rode with constant attention. The road was like a gravel-walk, so even. I had just averted a well-pronounced trip, and remarked, "If this brute does stay on his feet all the journey, it will be a perfect miracle!" We had advanced hardly fifty yards, when down the beast came, his face actually on the ground; and, as

I was scarcely moved from the saddle, my left foot was underneath the animal's whole weight. I felt it grate upon the ground with the impetus of the lumpish carcass of the animal; I tried to stand, but my left foot had evidently struck work, and blood was streaming from an injury somewhere about it.

My companions contrived to put me on horseback again, and we turned back to Contra Costa. The hurt was very painful, and I rode in momentary expectation of another fall. Happily, we reached the inn safely; but I had to wait the next morning steamer to get over to San Francisco.

Next morning, up at six; a carriage to the steamer; the ancle enormously swollen, and a deep ragged cut in the hollow behind it; it seems a tolerable mess. Got to

Stockton Street to breakfast, and found there Dr. B—tt, who had arrived from Marysville, in consequence of Mrs. B—tt having severely injured her shoulder by a fall.

The Doctor took charge of me, and I felt myself greatly favoured by being in the hands of a skilful English physician. B—tt examined the injury, felt it everywhere, and scrutinised the cut, or rather tear; when he came to the following conclusion:—

"Well, short of a fracture, you have made the best smash I have seen for a long time."

Then came bandages, washes, &c.; but the former were taken off, for they gave both trouble to him and pain to me. I am to be laid up ten or twelve weeks, I am told.

What misery, to be in an American boarding-house, and unable to do anything for yourself — no bell to ring, though if there were, no one probably would answer it when rung. No one cares a jot about you, saving any friend who may be boarding in the same house. A cup of cold tea, a little bread and butter, are brought by a "help," who, heaven knows, is misnamed, with the remark—

"Well, I guess you feel bad."

Or if you discover any impatience under the pressure of hunger, he will observe—

"Well, you look kinder ugly at me, and I sha'n't come up again."

How often I have wished the United States were as thickly populated as are the British Islands, for then these boors would

see the advantages of civility; now, they do not distinguish between civility and servility.

In their boarding-houses it is starvation to stay up-stairs, and retarding recovery to come down to eat; of two evils select the least, so I came down to dinner, limping along, and Mrs. B—tt came with an arm in a sling: both rebuked by the Doctor —but what was to be done?

Reading the papers, I find the annexed notice of the action of a Vigilant Committee in Virginia—it is a free country!

"The Vigilance Committee of Grayson Company, Virginia, arrested one of their own citizens for being abolitionist, and required him to renounce his abolition sen-

timents ; and on his refusing, tied him to a tree and commenced whipping him. After receiving a dozen lashes, he agreed to renounce abolitionism, sell his land, and leave the State.

The same committee are in pursuit of others."

A duel has been fought of a character so ridiculous, that even those involved in it skulk from notice of it.

The heroes of it are mentioned in the morning papers as follows :—

" According to the San Francisco papers, Mr. Gwin and Mr. McCorkle did have a hostile meeting on Wednesday, at San Mateo, thirty miles south of San Francisco.

They fought with rifles at thirty paces, to wheel and fire at the word.

Three rounds were fired without effect, when, in the language of a card signed by their six friends, 'the friends of the respective parties having discovered that their principals were fighting under a misapprehension of facts, mutually explained to their respective principals in what the misapprehension consisted.'"

My accident brings me a levée; amongst other English gentlemen, Mr. S—k—p called, and knowing the misery of an American boarding-house, very kindly allowed me to make an arrangement with him, by which I am to remove to his own house; this is as considerate in him, as it

will be beneficial to me. To-day I have made my last dinner at W—n—pt's boarding house; and such a dinner—two wild geese, a piece of beef nearly raw, some stewed apple tart, and before this is all got over, a cup of tea is handed round, instead of coffee.

My ancle very painful; Dr. B—tt says it will be so, if I will move about.

CHAPTER XXI.

A CHALLENGE.

A CERTAIN Mr. Lumsden, of Cincinnati, is very angry, because the "Times" has made some disparaging remarks upon the United States' contribution to the Exhibition at the Crystal Palace; so he challenges every one in England to produce any manufacture equal to that which can be made in the United States; and here follows his advertisement.

"The card below is from one of our respectable citizens, who has just returned from the 'World's Fair.' He is able to make good the stake proposed. Let the John Bulls, official or unofficial, 'face the music.'

CHALLENGE IN THE SUM OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.

To the Editors of the 'London Times'— The Commissioners of the World's Fair, or others whom it may concern in Great Britain.

As comparisons have been invidiously and insultingly made towards Americans and their contributions by the 'London Times,' the organ of that factious clique who control the London Fair—

I hereby challenge the editors of the

London Times—the Commissioners of the World's Fair, or others whom it may concern in Great Britain, in the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, that they cannot find an Englishman—a British *subject*—who can equal in superiority of style, delicacy of execution, and perfection of workmanship, articles which were exhibited at the Mechanics' Institution in Cincinnati, in 1842.

I will take these articles, with the dust of nine years upon them, and place them against British superiority and skill.

I seek to produce nothing new or particular for this occasion, and will expose to the world, without any further effort, the prejudice, stupidity, and folly of those who control the Fair—and I dare them to the trial.

These articles, which can be brought

forward at a moment's notice, were made by an American citizen, in Cincinnati—one who has been a resident for almost one-third of the period since the white man felled the forest where this city stands.

The winner of the Ten Thousand Dollars must bind himself to appropriate the money to some benevolent institution or object in England or America.

Twelve judges to be appointed, who must be approved practical mechanics—six from Europe, and six from the United States. The decision of the majority to be final and binding.

If this challenge be accepted, I will name the articles; for the present, I merely state that they are '*out of the province of rugged utility.*'

If this challenge be not accepted before

the expiration of the Fair now being held in London, I will give as a reward, the sum of One Thousand Dollars to any mechanic of Europe whose workmanship, now exhibiting in the Crystal Palace, will *equal* Cincinnati manufacture.

SAMUEL LUMSDEN."

If you were to find fault with the thunder and lightning, wind or rain, of the United States, it would probably call forth a challenge to produce better.

Left W—n—pt's this morning. Called at Mrs. S—m—d's as I passed, to see Mrs. B—tt and Mrs. McD—g—l, English

ladies. The Doctor had ordered me not to move the foot, if possible, in changing my residence; but I disobeyed, and got out to see the ladies. Mrs. B—tt's shoulder severely hurt; arm in a sling as before.

At Mr. S—k—p's in the afternoon. Himself and his wife so kind—every possible wish anticipated. The house so like that of English people—clean and comfortable. I change dirty living, innumerable rats, running about my bed even, and six squalling, ill-bred children, for the cleanest ménage, two very good babies, an adjoining fowl yard, and a yelping dog.

My ancle dreadfully painful—no sleep.

Passed the night in great pain—literally no sleep; no posture gives a moment's

ease. Inflammation greatly increased about the lacerated part.

Dr. B—tt and Dr. J—l—y both came; very solemn faces—caustic and charcoal applied, continual poultices, the accession of the bad symptoms attributed to moving about yesterday. Lectures upon the positive necessity of lying in bed till a change for the better takes place; so Mrs. S—k—p very kindly brought me books and papers. Tried to write, but the ancle was too painful to allow of that.

My companion in the Frolic, Captain H—t—r, called; he wants a quartz lode on Moquelumne Hill worked. Like every other lode here, it is "the best."

In order to add to my comfort, Mr. and Mrs. S—k—p have ordered their tea into my room, so the evening will be enlivened;

and during the day very many acquaintances called to see me; so that with talking, reading, and changing poultices, I continue to pass the time.

Mrs. W—k—n sent me some grapes, and a bouquet of flowers; Mrs. L—r a dozen fresh eggs — eggs sell for half a dollar each, and are paid for as "extras" at the hotels. It is worth while to sprain an ancle, when the consequence is such kindness.

"*Appointment.*—We are happy to learn that our cotemporary, J. E. Lawrence, Esq., of the Times and Transcript, has been appointed Aide-de-Camp to his Excellency Governor Bigler, with the rank of Colonel of Cavalry. The Colonel is a handsome man, and a judge of music.

The Commander-in-Chief has displayed good taste and judgment in his selection.

'Place him where France most needs a soldier.'"

This is the manner by which the United States acquires so many Colonels; the Governor of each State can appoint himself four aides-de-camp; from the date of the appointment they rank with a "Colonel of Cavalry;" they are not selected from military life; the qualifications of the new Colonel editor are set forth in the notice; but I think the line should read, "place him where France least wants a soldier," if these are his only title to a soldier's name.

All manner of kind attentions are generously showered upon me in my helplessness, but nothing so considerate and so gratifying as a note from Mrs. B—tt, brought this morning by the Doctor, so thoroughly like an English lady in every syllable. B—tt says the ancle is better, but still distrusts my lying quiet; so he has compromised the matter by allowing me to lie on a sofa all day, with my foot elevated on a frame.

"*Transit across the Isthmus.* — We understand that the treasure which goes to the Atlantic States by the New Orleans, will be accompanied across the Isthmus under charge of General Mosquera's guards."

This notice, from a Panama paper, appears, and, I should think, would render the transit of treasure more unsafe; "deliver me from my friends!" "Generals" on this side of the Atlantic are too thick upon the ground.

CHAPTER XXII.

RESCUE OF A PRISONER—RECORDER'S COURT.

A "STABBING AFFAIR" at Columbia, and subsequent proceedings, are detailed as follows in a San Francisco evening paper:—

"The stabbing affair of yesterday caused a great excitement to prevail amongst the large concourse of miners

and others assembled about the court-house throughout the day.

When the officers brought out the prisoner for the purpose of conveying him to Sonora, people rushed upon them and carried off the object of their indignation, dragging him through the town to a tree, to a limb of which was already suspended the rope designed for his neck.

Without any preliminaries whatever, it was adjusted, and the next moment the prisoner was suspended in the air; but the limb broke, and it was then decided to give him a trial by jury.

While this was going on, the Sheriff of Sonora arrived, and attempted to rescue the prisoner from the hands of the populace, but was defeated.

Some five or six hours were occupied in the hearing the witnesses, &c.; at the expiration of which time, the Sheriff succeeded in obtaining the malefactor, and carried him to Sonora."

The Recorder's Court often affords much amusement to the idle vagabonds who are fortunate enough to avoid its jurisdiction. The following are specimens of cases before the "Honourable" the Recorder, who bears a title in spite of the republican repudiation of such things.

RECORDER'S COURT.

Honourable G. W. Baker, Recorder.

J. H. Burke, hard drinking, five dollars.

Thomas Donahue, drunk for a week, beat his wife, pulled her out of bed,

threw dishes at her, tore her clothes off, and was very riotous.

Sent to City Prison for sixty days.

Frank Weisic, D. D., City Prison two days.

Jerry McCarty, drunk again, beat his wife, broke the window and got nabbed by an officer.

Jerry said his wife got drunk and gave him no peace of his life, and he had to get drunk to keep even.

The Recorder evidently did not believe him, and he was sent down stairs for thirty days.

"*Difference of Opinion.*—Three young men were accused by Officer Johnson with obstructing and annoying him in discharge of his duty.

The defendants denied all knowledge

of the matter, but the evidence was so positive that they were fined ten dollars each."

"*Helping Himself.*—An ancient rum-head, who gave his name as Edward Otis, was discovered by an officer yesterday morning, a short time before daylight, tapping a hogshead of brandy.

He had filled his demijohn half full when arrested.

Sent to the City Prison ninety days for vagrancy."

At the close of this month I am still confined to my room by the state of the sprain, the lacerated part very pain-

ful ; but every thing that kindness can do to ameliorate discomforts is most willingly and most successfully done by Mr. and Mrs. S—k—p.

CHAPTER XXIII.

NOVEMBER.

1ST. During the night the first rain for the season fell; it may now be expected to fall heavily for four or five weeks, then some fine weather in January; after that, heavy rain more or less till the end of March.

The surface miners and quartz crushers are all rejoicing in the prospect of getting a large amount of gold.

In Ohio they seem to do things in a summary way; for instance:—

"Great excitement has been produced in Cleveland by the alleged discovery of several dead human bodies on or near the premises of the Homœopathic College in that City, among which, it is said, a gentleman from Ohio City recognized the body of his daughter, who died a short time since.

The people in the neighbourhood became greatly excited, and the fire-bells were rung four or five times, until the College buildings were surrounded by an infuriated multitude, who commenced destroying the windows and everything contained in the building.

The crowd burst in, ransacked the rooms, and cast their contents from the windows.

A full-length skeleton was lashed to a barber's pole and carried about the streets.

The building was twice fired, but extinguished.

The Light Artillery and several companies were called out.

The mob continued throughout the day, and at our last telegraphic dispatch was not quelled."

More grapes, bouquets, and fresh eggs, sent to me by Mrs. W—k—n, an American lady living close by; her husband holds an office under the U. S. Government here; they have made round their house a lovely flower-garden

out of what before was but a barren land.

I have just finished "Dickens's American Notes;" before reading them, I had decided, in a very prejudiced manner, that these "Notes" had been written in an ungenerous spirit: having read them, I can find no trace of such a feeling. Every one knew that Dickens could write what he met with in the United States; and if by fêtes the people hoped to blind him to their follies, they had to take the chance of the speculation being successful. He was not blinded; and now, because he wrote what he saw, and made people laugh at his stories, treats the boast of freedom as a farce while it upholds slavery, and condemns the savage duelling system of the Americans, they call him un-

grateful, and are ready to tar and feather him; all because a few dinners could not bribe him to write "smooth things," where they are not to be found unalloyed.

CHAPTER XXIV.

FIRE AT SACRAMENTO.

It has blown a heavy gale all night; the shipping have received great damage, and they in turn have done as much to the wharves.

News has just arrived that during the gale a fire broke out in Sacramento, in the quarter from whence the wind blew.

In a few hours the flames spread entirely over the town, the gale increased in strength, and there remained no possible means of arresting the fire in its horrible course.

With the exception of two or three brick buildings, the whole city was levelled in one black smoking mass before the sun rose, and fifteen thousand souls left houseless, many destitute.

No one can imagine the rapidity of the destruction of these towns who has not seen one on fire; the wood itself perfectly dry, and full of turpentine, aids powerfully the fire, and the flame is furious as clear.

Immediately the destruction of the city was evident, some speculators dispatched emissaries to Nevada, Marysville, Stock-

ton, and other places to buy up all the lumber, then selling at about seventy dollars the thousand feet: they also chartered a steamer to go to San Francisco, with the engagement that the vessel should hold no communication with that place until the charterers had been landed some hours.

This was all fulfilled; the speculators bought up all the lumber everywhere, and as the winter had just begun, people in Sacramento must have houses, so they could only buy from those who held the lumber, which instantly rose to nearly two hundred and fifty dollars per thousand feet! Vultures hasten to the carrion!

The loss in Sacramento is estimated at one million sterling.

Large subscriptions in aid of the sufferers are advertised already, and the amount is rapidly increasing.

The demand from that place for every species of merchandise is so great as to double the prices.

This day, November sixth, the steamer from Panama came in; she brings the intelligence of the death of the Duke of Wellington, at Walmer Castle, in the eighty-fourth year of his age; all the English flags in the harbour lowered half-mast, and remained so during one week.

It is now nearly a month since I sprained my ancle, and I am as little able

to walk as at first; the lacerated part is fast healing, but it is all very painful. Not much variety in changing from a bed to a sofa. The evenings pass very pleasantly, as Mr. and Mrs. S—k—p come up always to have their tea with me.

A fire in the city at nine this night.

The New York papers say, "now that the Duke of Wellington is no more, it is obvious to the world, that General Winfield Scott is the greatest military Captain of the age." The "world" scarcely knows of the existence of this great chief!

The merchants who sold the lumber to

the Sacramento speculators will not deliver it, because they say they were unaware of the cause of the purchase; now the party buying only did so to make a profit of it, and for what other purpose is it now withheld?

The fire of last night burned down all the houses between Clay and Merchant Streets; it was stopped by the Plaza to the west, and by Montgomery Street to the east.

Maconochie came from the mountains to see me. A long conference on the subject of the winter proceedings.

Dr. B—tt still using caustic on the

wound; what a precious bother a simple fall has made! A good deal of rain has fallen in the last two or three days.

M—h—e very unwell, with a bad sore throat; he is a disciple of the Homœopathic school; but now finds it better to apply to Dr. B—tt, who fears an abscess will form.

I have leave to go out in a carriage, on condition that I keep my foot elevated; indeed, that I must do, for otherwise the pain is severe, and the wound bleeds afresh. B—tt came and applied the confounded caustic again. Drove with Mrs. B—tt to the Abbey-house; the country is beautifully green after the rain.

Dined at Mrs. S—y—d's, in Stockton Street; a farewell dinner to Mr. and Mrs. McD—g—ll, who are going to their

quartz-mill in the mountains—we shall greatly miss them. Rain again.

At breakfast, Mr. S—k—p told me the ship which has the engine for me has arrived. It is a heavy Cornish engine; altogether there are about ninety tons—it is contrived that this shall come just as the rains prevent my moving it up the country, and the storeage will be, at least, two dollars per ton per month—one way of dissipating a small capital, for the whole must be stored for six months.

At Neuada, it seems, the men are endeavouring to get rid of the women; two of the latter were mortally wounded by pistol-shots three days ago—the offen-

ders are taken into custody, and that will be all.

"The United States' ship 'Vandalia,' Commander William H. Gardner, arrived at New York on the sixth of October, from a cruise in the Pacific viâ Valparaiso, Rio de Janeiro, and Pernambuco.

The 'Vandalia' sailed from Norfolk on the fifth of September, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, and was absent three years and one month, during which time she visited nearly all the ports of North and South America, upon the Pacific coast — some of them two and three times; besides being employed for a year on important duty at the Sandwich Islands.

A naval court-martial assembled on the eighteenth of October, at the navy-yard

in Philadelphia, to try the crew of the 'Vandalia,' for offences committed during the cruise."

This notice of the intended trial by a court-martial of the "crew" of the United States' ship-of-war "Vandalia," will give a tolerably good idea of the consequence of abolishing corporal punishment, as the American Government have; here is a captain calling for a court-martial upon the entire crew of his ship!

Being still unable to walk, and ordered to get out in the air, I am driven about in a carriage for some hours in the day.

I am generally accompanied by one or two English ladies, who have compassionated my helpless state.

There is but little variety, and the roads

are now getting muddy; but we continue to get as far as the Lake-house every day, about seven miles from San Francisco.

From this house, which is an inn, the view of the sea is very grand, as it rolls its heavy waves in upon the beach.

The sea-breeze here is most exhilarating, and at this period of the year, the drive for some distance is over the green tender shoot of the grass, just beginning to recover from the long-continued heat of the past summer.

A decision of Judge M—r—y has given great offence.

It seems the city of San Francisco could not pay the claim of a certain Peter

Smith, for some services performed by him; upon which the said Peter seizes upon some large number of city lots, and the sheriff sells them; other creditors of the city look upon this as an injustice, the city having assigned all its property, and they bring an action to nullify the sales in question; Judge M—r—y, however, confirms them.

The "Alta Californian" calls it swindling, and every one believes that the influence of the dollars decided the judgment.

"*Difficulties in Grass Valley.*—A difficulty occurred this evening about a trifling matter, between a baker of this place, named Patrick Doyle, and a man named Andrew Byrne, which they finally made up, and drank together. Soon

after, Doyle challenged the other to fight.

He replied, he would not fight there, but would meet him in the morning if he wanted to fight, and then turned to go away. Doyle drew a pistol, and shot Byrne in the abdomen, inflicting, it is thought, a mortal wound.

An intense excitement was raised. Doyle was taken by a crowd to a butcher's shambles, for the purpose of being lynched; but a little delay occurring in getting a rope, objections were made to the proceedings by some of the bystanders, and it eventually ended by handing Doyle over to the officers of the law, and he was sent off to jail."

Such events as this now appended, are so frequent, as to preclude any

expression of horror; they are, indeed, expected, and held to be rather necessary for the support of interest in the columns of the papers, where the fact of a murder is termed a "difficulty," and more frequently described with flippant wit, than with honest reproof.

This day, the twenty-fifth, is set apart as a day of "General Thanksgiving for all Blessings and Mercies," &c.

The engagements of the day have filled the saloons rather than the churches; some very silly attempts at military display have contrasted with unmeaning processions, and exhibition of Fire Companies, dragging about their engines.

Why these companies, if they must show themselves so often to the people, will persist in dragging their engines through the mud, no one but a native of the United States can divine—it does look like a very silly proceeding.

Drove out on the San Mateo road with Mrs. B—tt, who seemed to be benefitted by the sea-air; it was rather cold, but being well wrapped up, she seemed to enjoy it.

It is a great happiness to me, that I am able to show, in some trifling way, how truly I appreciate the kindness shown to me by Dr. and Mrs. B—tt; every day till I can walk without injury to my

sprained ancle, I shall continue these drives, provided I can get so eligible a companion, whose presence for a few hours compensates for exposure to the uncivilised state of the general society of this place.

A three-story brick, in California Street, "caved in," and fell with a monstrous crash. So much for building on sand!

It is now the last day of November, and here I have been scarcely able to move, on account of my sprained ancle, ever since the seventeenth of October.

I am anxious to go to the mining

works in the mountains, but Dr. Bennett ridicules the idea; indeed, I could only sit still, if I went there. But it is a great nuisance, and costs a mint of money in this country, where, if a man only brushed your coat, he would expect, at least, a dollar!

CHAPTER XXV.

THE JENNY LIND THEATRE — CATHERINE HAYES—AMERICAN CHARACTER.

The grand jury have been examining into the circumstances attending the purchase, by the city, of the "Jenny Lind" theatre, which is to be converted into a court-house; it is well known that many thousand dollars have been given for this theatre more than a court-house could have been built for!

All the contracts sent in were far

under the price given for the "Jenny Lind."

However, the whole affair seems a very "smart" job, and it is tolerably well understood in what direction much of the purchase-money goes.

The worthy occupants of the new city-hall, or court-house, will, however, perform as good farces before the public as ever were exhibited here, only the payment for them will be a much more serious consideration.

Catherine Hayes is here, delighting the people with her vocal powers, which, if not of the highest order, are extremely attractive; besides which, she appears with the most unquestionable reputation—a character that is supported by her conduct and deportment here.

Miss Hayes is accompanied by her mother.

The first concert given by Miss Hayes takes place this evening (the thirtieth), and every one seems enthusiastic about it, although not one of the citizens has probably ever heard her sing, or seen her perform before.

This is quite in accordance with the American mind, which yields to an impulse, and rushes forward, like an avalanche, overwhelming everything in its course.

Nothing can arrest its progress short of the attainment of its object, so long as the means of "going ahead" are possessed; when attainment is sated, or when means fail, a prostration takes place, and as the same avalanche which it resem-

bled at its outset lies cold and motionless when it has terminated its sweeping career, so the American mind, prostrated for a time by its own heated impulse, succumbs beneath the impassioned exertion; but in this inaction it revives, and soon the community are seen as strenuously chasing some other attraction, it matters not of what kind; it may be the election of a governor, or that of the chief of a Fire Company; the presentation of plate to a steamer captain, who has survived the unaccountable wreck of his steamer, or the hurrying on of some wretch to be lynched on a tree; the appearance of an actress of spotless reputation and celebrity, or that of a Lola Montes horsewhipping a miner, from whom an insult had been

received; the embarcation of "fillibusters" to perpetrate burglary on a scale commensurate with the extent of the United States; or the arrival of a steamer with a thousand passengers on board from New York. Excitement there must be; it is the food of the American mind; with it the American acknowledges no restraint—without it, his exertions scarcely supply his wants; he is either impetuously bounding forward, or idly depending upon others.

CHAPTER XXVI.

DECEMBER.

The month commenced with a drizzling morning, which cleared up "some" towards noon; the rain, however, has begun to show its powers this year, and at Sacramento the embankment, or "levee," is stated to be so much injured that it is feared the city will be flooded; if it gives way, this certainly will be the state

of the place, for the banks of the river are higher than the ground behind them. This embankment was too weak a defence against the weight of the winter stream, and it has been infinitely weakened by the innumerable rats which every summer burrow in it like rabbits.

"*Sale of Tickets to Miss Hayes' Concert —Choice Seat at one thousand, one hundred and twenty-five dollars!*—At twelve o'clock this morning, Messrs. Theodore Payne and Co. proceeded to sell, at the American Theatre, the tickets to choice seats to Miss Katherine Hayes' third musical concert.

A large crowd had collected, and the excitement was great.

The first ticket, after much competition, was knocked off to George W. Green, for the enormous sum of *one thousand, one hundred and twenty-five dollars!*

Mr. Green is a butcher in the Pacific Market, on Central Wharf, and the worthy foreman of Empire Engine Company No. 1.

The ticket was put down in the name of that company, as the foreman felt a peculiar pride in seeing it placed number one in the choice of seats, as well as in the regular line of the Fire Department.

The remainder of choice seats sold at a premium of from five to twenty dollars."

Some idea may be formed, by reading

the appended statement, of the feeling which now rages in San Francisco with reference to the desire to witness the performances of Miss Katherine Hayes.

The practice of selling opera tickets by auction seems curious to Europeans, and would scarcely answer well, excepting amongst a community so excitable, and so ready to compete, as are the Americans of the United States.

Here, for instance, is a butcher, the foreman of a fire-engine company, who triumphantly delights in having possessed himself of a "choice" seat to hear the music at Miss Hayes' concert, for the enormous sum of two hundred and twenty-five pounds! This is precisely an instance of that impulsive mind before mentioned. For my part, I think

the purchaser, Mr. Green, is very appropriately named, and no doubt few will be green enough to oppose his pursuit at that cost.

During the performance there were many bouquets thrown from the audience to the stage as Miss Hayes finished her songs, &c.

In many of these there was a fifty-dollar gold piece. One person in this manner presented a valuable diamond brooch; but a Patlander, enchanted by her strains beyond all personal control, yelled his applause, threw his hat upon the stage, exclaiming loudly,—

"By the powers! darlint, here's my hat for yer, and it's all I have got to give ye!"

The audience on these occasions pre-

sent a motley display of dress; many well-dressed ladies and gentlemen occupy positions close to the workman in his red or blue woollen frock in which he works—certainly it is generally a new one. The dollar decides the right of seat without regulating the dress of the person occupying it: however, on this especial occasion, the important fact of Mr. Green's fire-engine company having appeared in "their full uniforms," (namely, red woollen frocks, and blue trousers,) is duly recorded in the newspaper of the next morning.

News of the election of Mr. Frankland Pierce to the Presidency of the United

States has arrived, and the democrats greatly exult, supposing that he will advocate their views; they in consequence fire one hundred guns, and when the last gun has been fired, not one in the crowd will give another cheer for the newly-elected President.

I am preparing to go up to the works. I can make but a bad walk of it yet, nevertheless. The rivers have swollen enormously, and the plains are reported to be overflowed.

Marysville is flooded by the united streams of the Yuba and Feather rivers; however, the rains have ceased for a few days, perhaps.

To-day the "Marysville Herald" says the river is out of the bar-room of the Merchants' Hotel, and probably will be out of the cellars in a day or two, as the Yuba is falling at the rate of thirty inches an hour; so far, the prospect is hopeful for the community of the hotel.

CHAPTER XXVII.

EXECUTION OF A MEXICAN.

This morning, at an early hour, people were observed moving towards the summit of an elevated sand-hill at the back of the city, and overlooking it.

On enquiry, I was told that that conspicuous location had been fixed upon for the erection of a gallows, the period for the execution of a Mexican named Forni having arrived.

This man had murdered another Mexican in a very brutal manner, and well deserved his punishment.

As the day advanced, the summit and sides of the sand hill swarmed with human beings — they seemed clustered together like bees on a tree branch, and for the purpose of seeing a criminal convulsed and writhing in the agonies of a violent death!

This desire appeared to pervade all classes of the Americans in the city.

About eleven o'clock the prisoner was taken from the jail, attended by the sheriff, &c., and conveyed towards the place of his execution. On his arrival there, a delay suddenly took place; it was determined that the murderer should not be hung in so conspicuous a spot, because

it might offend the feelings of the inhabitants of the city!"

Offend the feelings of a population of all classes and sexes, which had already competed for the possession of the places from which the dying struggles of a human being could be most minutely witnessed!

The removal of the gallows was carried into effect, and a spot selected on the west side of the hill, from which no part of the city could be seen.

While the gallows was in progress to this spot, the contention for proximity to it, in order to maintain a close position to it at the last moment of the existence of the wretched criminal, was eager beyond description;—savagely vying, like hounds, to taste the blood of the victim they had run to death.

To give importance to the work, the "Marion rifles," in full uniform, were marched to the ground; for what reason, except to show their uniforms, it would be impossible to conceive, for assuredly no vestige of an intention to rescue could be discerned. The civil power had already a whole populace to aid in completing the execution, if aid were wanting: however, out marched the Marion Rifles, as gaily as if proceeding to celebrate the fourth of July or the election of a foreman of a fire-engine company, the enthusiasm in either case being about equal.

It was not till nearly half past two, that the execution was completed; the wretched murderer was kept full three hours upon the ground to be jeered at, and baited by a populace, many of which

merited his death, while the authorities were hesitating upon, and changing the place of execution.

In a short time after the sheriff had performed his last duties, the crowd returned, the Marion Rifles leading the way attended by a band as at first, playing a lively air; this gallant corps then went through several evolutions on the Plaza, for the gratification of the citizens, little apparently remembering the solemn event, which it had attended but half-an-hour before.

I have no mercy for a murderer; but it does appear to me that when his execution is so indecorously conducted, the crime and punishment which should inspire horror and awe, are productive, instead, of curiosity and rejoicing.

For a detail of the execution, and the behaviour of the people, the "Alta California" newspaper may be referred to.

I go to the mountains this afternoon, taking the steamer to Marysville; the day has been very damp, a heavy mist, almost deserving to be called rain, frequently falling. Until the period of embarcation arrived, I had the great pleasure of sitting in Dr. B—tt's house, for I make a very bad hand of walking yet. Having had a lunch there, I took leave of himself and Mrs. B—tt. To Dr. B—tt's skill and attention, I am indebted for my recovery so far from the results of an

accident which at one time threatened serious consequences; and to him and Mrs B—tt I am indebted for evenings which reminded me of English society in its fullness of purity, courtesy, and sincerity. What a contrast to my future evenings for the next six months.

In the morning, at Sacramento. The city is rapidly rising from its ashes; the "Orleans" hotel, which six or eight weeks ago was utterly destroyed by fire, now again displays itself, built of brick. If everything corresponded with the buoyancy of the American mind under circumstances of disastrous consequences, the

nation would be unrivalled. The alacrity with which a ruin is overcome is wonderful : but unfortunately the laws induce too great a carelessness as to the means of supporting this alacrity ; engagements are made without the shadow of a prospect of carrying them out faithfully ; frequently there is no intention of doing so. However, brick houses are now replacing those of wood lately burned, and, as the Americans say, Sacramento will now be " quite " a city.

Beds at a premium ; but for the kindness of my friend B—e, I must have slept in the bar-room, I believe.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

MARYSVILLE.—EFFECTS OF THE FLOOD.

To Marysville this morning. As the boat passed up the stream, which now is more marked out by the tops of the trees than by the banks on which they are growing, the plains appeared one enormous lake; nothing gave the idea of the flood being temporary, but the fact of trees standing

half submerged in the water, and here and there a house upon some isolated eminence, raised just above the surface of the flood, cattle clinging to its sides, all looking very disconsolate, and apparently a poor representative of the ark, when first left by the receding waters.

Curious occurrences in relation to the buildings of Marysville, took place during this flood.

Many zinc houses were washed down, and, of course, remained where they fell. Not so the wooden buildings, which being badly, or perhaps not at all, secured to any foundation, as soon as the water became of sufficient depth to float some of these away, they went in the course of the stream.

One that was passed on its way down the river, had a sign up, stating that "rest for the weary, and dry storage for trunks," might be had in it.

Another, on a similar voyage, informed us, that there "hot coffee might be had at all hours;" but one exhibited a most determined adhesion on the part of its owner; it was true, this last still retained its place, but was flooded; it appeared to be the residence of a laundress, whom, as the water forced her from the ground floor, retired to the next with all the insignia of her avocation: from that she could only retreat to the roof, which was flat; here she secured all her tubs, &c., and defied the waters. A boat was sent to bring her off; but she declined, and only asked for food, which was sent to her. In a few

hours afterwards, the flood began to fall; no sooner had it left the upper floor than she took possession again, and so on, till she found herself, tubs and all, in a position to resume her professional pursuit in the hot water and suds.

At Marysville, and a cold, blowing morning; the streets knee-deep nearly in mud, the consequence of the late floods. I am hobbling about, supported by a thick stick, my ancle much swollen by the recent unusual exertion, and suffering also under a well-expressed attack of lumbago.

Walking in the streets is out of the question for me, so I sent for my horse,

but when it came I could not avail myself of my left foot to mount on the proper side, the joint being so weak; fortunately sailors have the privilege of getting on a horse as they find convenient, and sitting there as they best can, without being charged with any infringement of equestrian rules, so I mounted on the wrong side, and rode to the Quintag ranche to see Captain P——x; he has a beautiful location here, extending over some large tract, which is rendered extremely fertile by the overflowing of the Yuba.

I was informed that during the winter, this river frequently leaves a coating of soil to the depth of two or three inches annually, and thus the soil of such lands becomes manured, and yields extraordinary crops at the appointed season. This year,

however, the Captain had suffered largely by the redundant supply of the river, for although he had placed his stacks of hay and corn on apparently a secure elevation, yet the fullness to which it sometimes reached had not been contemplated, and nearly the entire results of the hard work and industry of the spring, summer, and autumn were swept away before the power of the remorseless waters of the Yuba.

The courses of the rivers this year could scarcely be recognised; there was but a faint and broken line of the tops of oak trees to give the limit of their natural banks; the plain appeared to be one vast sea, moving to join the adjacent ocean.

These losses are very discouraging to any one who displays as much industry

and judgment in his pursuits as does the Captain. I may now add forbearance to the other good qualities, for I have not heard one word of complaint from him.

CHAPTER XXIX.

HOTEL LIFE.

Got home again at one o'clock, just in time to be assailed by the stunning gong calling the good citizens ensconced in the Merchants' Hotel to dinner.

It may seem curious to us this middle of the day dinner, but it is not very long since the richer men of England have denounced that hour for the later period of

six and seven; and even now a meal at the first hour is secured, bearing in many instances a very suspicious resemblance to a dinner, though called a lunch. Indeed, it is currently reported that the ladies still do make their dinners then. However, it cannot be denied that the middle of the day dinner sadly breaks in upon both business and amusement so far as the men are involved, and has a farther tendency to make them seek other places than their own family hearth in which to pass the evening after the business of the day has closed. Many of the Americans are indeed adopting this later hour for dinner, and having done so, give the practice the preference.

A residence in these hotels is a severe method of doing penance, especially for

those who are not from necessity driven to early hours, or who from illness are precluded from them; the latter was my case, so far as a half-recovered sprained ancle, and a rather well-developed lumbago, gave me a claim to a place in the category of invalids.

At seven o'clock the astounding gong makes its tour of all the passages; this is to warn the tenants of the several bedrooms that it is proper to rise and prepare for breakfast. At eight this horrible device for bringing people to that meal is again put in operation, and immediately a general delivery of ladies and gentlemen from the chambers are seen converging to one point at the stair head, then a long narrow line of the same material briskly advances to the breakfast tables, two of

which, each capable of accommodating two hundred persons, are spread, or in American phrase "set," with sundry dishes making a vast show, but containing some very small matters. From the table you often have a view of the proceedings and manipulations of the kitchen, which contributes all its heat and steams to the breakfast room, and from whence tea, coffee, and beef-steak are issued out as called for by the "helps."

The rapidity with which the American completes his repast is indescribable; this is effected by placing on one plate every thing he intends to eat; he anticipates the mixture, which other races perfect in a more leisurely manner, and without exhibiting collection.

It is really sickening to see these com-

pounds, as the items blend into one mass upon the plate of your *vis-à-vis*. So habituated are the waiters to the practice, that while you are being engaged with roast beef, the natives having nearly gone through everything, will commonly bring you a piece of apple or peach pie, some plum pudding, &c.; and they do it as an attention.

Should you be indifferent to the inviting crash of the gong, and indulge an extra hour in bed, you get no breakfast in the hotel, and must resort to a restaurant, where people are allowed to be hungry at different hours; at the hotel, you must all be hungry together.

After breakfast the gentlemen go to business, the ladies to nothing; the chil-

dren, of which there generally are many, race and play about the passages all day, cry, screech, and laugh as occasion may command.

The dinner, and supper, or tea, are but a variation of the breakfast, excepting that at the former, many ladies think it right to appear at dinner rather *decoltée* for so early an hour of the day, a practice I observed to obtain at New York as well as at Marysville; only at New York, the dinner was two hours, at least, later.

Wine is but seldom seen upon the hotel tables of this country, but dinner being finished there is a general descent to the bar-room, where each gratifies his own taste with one of those "drinks," so ludicrously named by the American,

and some of which are infinitely delightful. Match me if you can, the sherry cobbler taken in ice through a straw, on a hot day! try a mint julep, your desire for it will recur; this latter is so favourite a "drink" in Virginia, that it is asserted the mint springs up over every grave holding a Virginian.

These hotels are bad schools for children; some now running wild, not more than six or seven years of age, are already very conversant with the cigar, and with the oaths so frequently used by the American in common parlance.

Two of these children came into the "gentlemen's parlour" last evening, late, each bringing a glass of whiskey toddy, smoking each a cigar, and drawing their

chairs to the stove, threw their feet upon it in the most approved fashion.

Miss C. Hayes still continues to delight the San Franciscans, and they appear to have taken a hint from the Irishman who some little time ago, having nothing better to give in expression of his admiration, threw his hat to her in the theatre.

"*Kate Hayes' Riding Hats.*—To the ladies. O. H. Boyd most respectfully solicits the ladies of San Francisco to call and examine the new style of Riding Hats.

The hat presented to Miss Hayes on Thursday evening, can be seen for one day only, at his establishment, 152 and 154, Commercial Street.

Ladies, please call early and leave your orders."

The tickets of admission to her concerts still command, or "rule," commercially speaking, at a high figure; Mr. Samuel Brannan, originally a Mormon leader, would naturally be a general admirer, and willing to pay high for the ticket.

"*Sale of the Tickets for Miss Hayes' Concert.*—The most spirited bidding that has yet occurred at the sale of tickets, took place yesterday at the American Theatre.

At one o'clock the auction commenced, and the first seat was secured by Mr.

Samuel Brannan, for six hundred and twenty-five dollars.

The second was purchased by Mr. George W. Green, for the Empire Co., for one hundred dollars.

Ex-Alderman Hyatt took the next six seats for fifty dollars, and Alderman Case the next six for twenty-five dollars.

The remainder sold at one to five dollars' premium.

The price paid for the first ticket of the seventh concert, exceeds, we believe, anything paid for the same ticket at the first concert of any singer in the Atlantic cities, and goes to prove that the interest felt in Miss Hayes' concert is still unabated.

The concert of to night, in benefit of the Firemen's Charitable Relief Fund, will

as a matter of course secure the lady a full house.

No more worthy or popular object could have been selected for the purpose."

CHAPTER XXX.

HOTEL PARLOURS.

STILL unable to leave Marysville, the plains being under water, and this last night's rain has again filled the bar-room of the hotel, and what is much worse is, the fact of this inundation driving the bar-room society into what is called the "gentlemen's parlour;" this said parlour was always disagreable enough, but now has become very low indeed.

The evenings in these parlours of the hotels are passed by the Californian-American in winter, by sitting round a stove, upon which as many as can, rest their feet; the whole engage themselves in keeping up an independent discharge of the infusion of tobacco, which is largely, and with much industry, produced by nine hundred and ninety-nine Americans out of one thousand—this is not an exaggerated proportion: very little conversation goes on, and that which does, almost uniformly turns upon the illness under which the speaker last suffered. Notice of smoking being disallowed in the parlour is conspicuously exhibited near a glass, and of course, in a "free country," as conspicuously disregarded.

The "ladies' parlour" is somewhat more lively; in it there is almost always a pianoforte, and many of the ladies play with considerable execution and taste; I do not remember to have heard the notes of the higher classes of composition attempted by the occupants of this parlour, but the waltz, polka, and music of popular songs are certainly generally played. Scotch music, and the airs composed for the songs of Haynes Bayley (who is a much-favoured poet in America), are highly pleasing to these lady amateurs; I fear their voices are not in unison with their musical prowess.

Waltzing and dancing in its varieties distinguish the habits of the "ladies' parlour;" it is not etiquette to enter the precincts of this retreat unless acquainted

with a lady using it; however, proper as this rule is, it requires but the intervention of an acquaintance enjoying the entrée, to enable a stranger to overcome it. One lady is here whose melancholy fate has reduced her to an untimely widowhood; an event she mourns in a low dress during the day, and by waltzing in the evening. Her late husband last year held a municipal position at Sacramento, and had been shot: and these are the evenings I now encounter!

The water rapidly rising: it is within four feet of the balcony upon which the first floor opens; no one can leave the house but by means of a boat; many

of these are in constant attendance, a ladder being so placed as to facilitate a descent into them. It sounds curious when the boatman calls out to invite you "to come on shore," just as if you were in a ship.

Upon the rivers vast damage has been inflicted by these floods upon the miners; their "diggings" have been inundated, flumes and implements of all kinds carried off no one knows where; for a time, digging is suspended.

CHAPTER XXXI.

PREPARATIONS FOR LEAVING MARYSVILLE.

THE weather seems clearing up, and, unless a deluge is intended, the sooner the better. It is "kinder" lower in the bar-room, but cannot altogether leave that locality for three or four days. No communication with the mountains yet.

News has arrived that the levee at

Sacramento has given way, the city becoming at once fearfully inundated; providentially, the inhabitants have been living in expectation of this event, and provision has been made for the security of life; but a vast amount of property must be sacrificed.

As I am only waiting the pleasure of the waters, with reference to my departure for the mountains, I made a reconnaissance of the plains this morning (the twenty-second), and find them passable, excepting where the "sloughs" intersect the route; these are winter rivers, and run with great force on their way to the main streams. There are three of these

on my road between Marysville and the mountains, so my proceeding to eat a Christmas dinner with my good friend and fellow quartz-crusher, McD—g—ll, is problematical.

The cold, wet weather does not at all agree with my swollen ancle—it is very stiff and painful; what a mess that falling horse has made of it for me.

Very gay, and noisy withal, in the "ladies' parlour" this evening, so I went to bed; to sleep, is a consummation to be implored, when imprisoned in these hotels — tobacco-smoke, tobacco-juice, drinks, and swearing all round.

Raining again! Nevertheless, I dispatched a waggon with stores of all kinds

to the Company's works at Dicksburgh, but the day was too bad to allow of my proceeding there also, so I have another evening in all the delights of the hotel. At present, certainly the place is seen to a disadvantage, because the proprietors, one of whom has been a judge, the other a medical practitioner, have exercised so little knowledge in the art of managing such business, that they are under the disadvantage of an intimacy with the sheriff, under whose guidance the place is about to change masters.

It cleared up in the evening, and I called upon Captain P—x, who continued to live in the house lately occupied by Dr. and Mrs. B—tt, where I had passed so many pleasant evenings.

What a sad aspect the building has

assumed, since it has been left by them! ends of cigars and litters everywhere.

As I sat on the air-cushioned sofa, it seemed to breathe its last sigh. Upon a wooden peg in the wall, an old straw bonnet found a resting-place; the faded ribbons attached to it waved in melancholy obedience to the various draughts of wind that entered from sundry openings; and it was the only emblem left to argue that once the room had boasted attractions now lost to it for ever; for in spite of the ownership of the bonnet being repudiated by the former lady of the house, I have still some lingering suspicions on the question. Goats leapt from a pile of lumber, over which the captain presided, to the verandah roof near it,

and rats meandered about warily in search of any cast-away remnant of a luncheon, for now the place was used only as an office—its glory had departed.

CHAPTER XXXII.

DEPARTURE FROM MARYSVILLE.

THE twenty-fourth, left Marysville on horseback, about ten o'clock, en route for the mountains; but the travelling is so bad, and my ancle so stiff and "sorter" painful, that I shall scarcely do more than reach Sewell's, at the foot of the first hills.

The day is gloomy and cold; the road is a water-channel; sometimes the horse steps upon hard ground, at others he is

floundering in a mud-hole. Thanks to Indian-rubber, I am tolerably well fortified—condemned, however, to a foot-pace.

About half-way to Sewell's, I overtook two waggons "mired down"—Anglicè, stuck in the mud. Travellers here always assist brothers in distress; so both myself and a companion riding with me, got off our horses, hitched them on behind the waggon with those forming the teams, and dragged each waggon out stern foremost. We then made as good a "corduroy" road as we could out of the sticks and branches lying about, and putting the whole strength on, successfully accomplished the passage of the mud-hole; and we then parted to proceed upon our respective journeys.

At Sewell's, found P—k—d, who is staying there during the flood, and distinguishing himself in the destruction of the various kind of wild fowl which visit these parts in the winter. The teal, and a small duck found here, are excellent; but a species of bird, called here the "sand-hill crane," is superlatively delicious; the meat of this bird throughout is brown, about the colour of the hare-meat when dressed, and, I believe, the flesh is naturally tender, for I never yet tasted any that was otherwise, whether the bird had been a long or short time killed.

It is not difficult to live on these plains in the winter, if you can stand walking up to the ancles, and, by way of variety, sometimes up to the waist, in water. I

have known often a dozen and a half of various kinds of ducks brought in during an afternoon; those which the bag cannot contain, being hung to a belt round the waist of the sportsman, who then seems to have originated for himself a feather-kilt. These birds should, on such occasions, never be hung to the belt by the head, for the neck is so easily separated, that the twine will divide the vertebræ, and thus the body will fall away unobserved, leaving only the head upon the belt.

Sewell gave me up his own bed-room very kindly; everything very comfortable, and, for the first time in a Californian hotel, or ranche, I was offered hot water and a foot-tub, which is a great advance towards the bath; of course, it

would have been gladly accepted after a journey in any weather, but was more especially enjoyable after having rode about seventeen miles in rain, and through mud. P—d joined me for a couple of hours before bed-time, and we had an unmolested English talk over the usual accompaniments of the evening fire-place.

After a good night's rest, I was quite ready to proceed on to the works of the Company, at Dicksburgh, excepting that my unhappy ancle was dreadfully stiff from riding yesterday: however, at nine o'clock I got on horseback, and on I went; the mountain-road in very fair condition, excepting here and there some mud-holes offer unpleasing obstacles to travelling.

At a small ranche about fourteen miles from Sewell's, I turned off the main road to go to Hansonville, a small mining town on the road to the works at Dicksburgh. I had to cross the stream called the Honcut; it is always a rapid stream in the winter, but after the rains that had already fallen, it was now furiously raging on over its wooded and rocky bed. Neither the horse nor myself liked the aspect of the stream apparently, for I gave the animal's side but a faint touch with the spur, to which but a corresponding effort replied. If we entered, it was a question whether the horse could stand up against the rushing waters, and there was not depth for it to swim. If we did not, I should have to retrace my steps, make a long detour, and infallibly arrive at the

residence of my hospitable friends, the McD—g—ls, too late for the Christmas dinner, to which they had invited me; the probable alternatives were of the losing order, neither pleasing nor promising.

Happily for me, as I sat on the horse ruminating on the choice of evils before me, a miner came down for a bucket of water. I appealed to him for advice.

"Wall, stranger," he began, "I guess the crossing ain't sorter good; there's holes all about where they been digging; if you finds one, you can stay there—that's a fact!" And he dipped his bucket in the srream, feeling that he had given me all the necessary information with reference to the crossing.

I was not, however, disposed to lose the Christmas dinner; and having noticed

where the tracks of the waggon wheels entered and left the stream on the side, I resolutely applied the spur; a material disagreement of opinion between the horse and myself was evinced, but mine assumed the ascendancy, and in went the horse, seeming to say, "Have your own way then." After floundering "considérable," and having fortunately escaped the excavations of the miners, I found myself safely conveyed to the other side of the stream, my mining counsel assuring me that "he kinder reckoned" I should go down stream.

Through a rich mining locality, the road passed onwards to "Jackass Flat," where were united in one pursuit not less than seven hundred men from every known nation almost; the Chinese here predomi-

nated, for independently of digging on their own account, many had hired themselves out to dig for others; an earthquake could scarcely have broken up the face of the "flat" more effectually than had the pick and shovel of the miner.

The road itself was not respected—on the contrary, it was interrupted by pits five or six feet deep, and was turned as best suited the miner. At length I extricated myself from this labyrinth, and in a heavy storm of wind and sleet, I presented myself, wet, hungry, and lame, before the door of my friends in Hansonville.

In an instant my prospects were infinitely changed for the better; my valise was taken off the horse, and the animal shown into a very comfortable stable. On my part I was established in a very com-

fortable room, wherein a stove was immediately lighted, hot water supplied, and then left to change my dripping clothes, and render myself comfortable. This was soon done, with the exception of the sprained ancle, which was even less accommodating than when I mounted the horse in the morning.

I found my warm-hearted friends in high health, and full of kindness to me, and I was informed that the dinner would in half an hour be on the table, in which interval I looked round the room; of which and its appurtenances I give a short account, to show when we have, as my friends had, a contented and a methodical mind, how soon a hopeless "shanty" may be turned into a comfortable dwelling-place.

Hansonville, like all the mining villages is a mere collection of wood houses, run up to last as long as the riches of the district may attract a population about it.

In one of these houses was an Englishman, Dr. W—th—n, accompanied by his wife and their little daughter, just entering her thirteenth year. The Doctor had more house-room and less income than was necessary or agreeable; the arrival therefore of the McD—g—ls was a happy event for him, to whom, after a very little negociation, he had let half his house, agreeing to put up a canvas partition, as well as open another door, on his part; McD—g—l, on his, agreeing to take the said portion so divided off for six months, at a rent per month that in England would

have commanded a decent cottage for the whole year; to such an extent had the influx of people to the mountain regions elevated the value of such property.

There was a room, perhaps twenty feet square; off this were two smaller apartments used as bed-rooms, and in an appropriate corner, a curtain concealed wood, and sundry other things wanted through the day, and best placed when very near, supposing that we combine master and servant in our own persons, the position in which, at this period, all those gentlemen conducting the works of the English gold mining companies found themselves in California.

The first-mentioned room performed the duties of dining, drawing-room, and

library; the furniture displayed a ready conception in conversion; for instance, a barrel was advanced to the rank of an arm chair, a claret-box to that of a foot-stool, and a larger packing-case claimed the honours of an ottoman; all these were neatly covered with printed calico, and gave the apartment an appearance of great comfort, when united to the furniture which had undergone no transformation. A stove warmed this part of the house, which also derived farther heat from another which blazed in the Doctor's department; it was true that the conversation of each family became, as it were, common property, although, of course, neither ever interfered with the other.

As for the cuisine, that was established under the charge of an English woman who kept a boarding house close by; she was assisted by her husband, who kept the wild miners in order while she prepared their meals.

The dinner hour arrived; everything was as usual on dinner tables when the "fixing" is but a temporary matter; I observed soup plates, but could discern no soup tureen.

We sat down together with M—e and Mr. D—s, the former having very considerately brought a haunch of venison from the Keystone, a neighbouring town in embryo.

Mrs. Mc D—g—l asked me if I would take soup; I feared to say yes, though I did pronounce the word, won-

dering from whence it would come : from this state I was relieved by Mrs. Mc D—g—l, who taking my soup plate, held it under a tin vessel generally termed a "black jack," and used to hold beer; from this, I found that that article had been promoted to the position of a tureen in the culinary service. The soup was nevertheless a very exemplary compound, and not less enjoyable, after having myself, come off a cold, wet, long ride in the mountains.

The dinner and cheerfulness of my good friends made me soon forget the storm which still raged, and the heavy rain, sometimes hail, which pelted against the sides of the wooden house.

Every thing was pleasing, and it being Christmas day we warmly drank to those

of whom we cherished a fond memory in England, and to one English family in San Francisco, for whose kindness I was at least very thankful during the time that an accident had confined me, and from which I still was very lame.

On the twenty-sixth I rode over to see the works at Dicksburgh. We have a small water mill, to which are fitted eight stumps. Mr. D—s, to whom the directors have confided the choice of quartz lodes, declares the quartz lodes will pay one and a half cents to the pound; if so, we shall realize thirty dollars to the ton. I doubt his judgment very

much in these matters; however, he is made the judge, and we shall see. Thirty dollars per ton would pay largely, especially with a water mill.

Returned in the evening to Hansonville, having left orders respecting the work to be done.

It has rained heavily since the twenty-sixth; but now, the noon of the thirtieth, a bright blue sky has succeeded to the heavy clouds which have so long poured their waters upon the country. The Honcut, which runs by Hansonville, has increased to the size of a river, and has greatly damaged two water mills here,

erected to crush quartz; one thousand dollars will not restore either to a working state.

Rode with McD—g—l to see the quartz lode he was testing. I do not think it very promising, though his mining agent thinks the reverse.

The last day of the year seemed to be weeping its total demise—incessant heavy rain; nothing to do but to send off letters for England, play chess, and read. The meals are a relief at such times; the day necessarily passed heavily enough, and very unlike the last day of the year at home, when the new year is often danced in, as the old one is gaily danced out.

A party of Mc D—g—l's Cornish miners are keeping it up now at midnight nearly—one fine specimen of a miner is

declaring that he "is a *practical* miner, and cares for no one:" the pronunciation of the word practical was altogether found by the worthy miner very impracticable.

THE END.